

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIK C. LEMONS RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Erik C. Lemons, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Erik is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. The organization matched Federal funds of \$500 in for the scholarship.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Erik C. Lemons for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT BRADLEY JARED HARPER

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Sergeant Bradley Jared Harper upon the death of this outstanding soldier.

Sergeant Harper was a member of Company A, 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Norfolk, Virginia serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a leader in his unit and a loving husband to his wife. Sergeant Harper was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Sergeant Harper will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous soldier, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sergeant Bradley Jared Harper.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS FOR HIS WORK WITH THE SAAM INITIATIVE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Congressman DANNY DAVIS for his leadership in launching the State of the African American Male Initiative (SAAM). This is a much needed initiative to improve the conditions of Black men and boys who continue to be marginalized in communities throughout the U.S. Their condition in this country is currently in a state of emergency and requires governmental, community, and corporate solutions to this crisis.

The SAAM initiative facilitates dialogue between individuals and organizations addressing the issues significantly affecting African Americans males. These issues center around health, education, economic empowerment, criminal justice and civic participation. The initiative will have regional meetings and conferences in New York, NY; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Memphis, TN; Detroit, MI; Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; and Oakland, CA. In addition it seeks to ensure a national impact through its website and the creation and utilization of partnerships with Members of Congress, grassroots organizations, and individuals throughout the country.

Young Black males in contemporary American society face major challenges to their development and well-being. I applaud the efforts of my colleague in taking an active role in reaching back to other Black men and boys to address the issues most affecting them.

Black males in this country are facing a state of emergency and the social and economic indicators of Black male development provide profiles of individuals whose quality of life is in serious jeopardy. Essentially Black males are becoming an endangered species and more must be done to ensure the survival of future generations.

The SAAM initiative is a good start. It is a positive way for we as lawmakers to take a hands on approach in making our communities better and safer places. As an African American male this initiative is particularly special to me. I know how important it is to have strong Black leaders, fathers, activists, and mentors to guide, develop, and structure the community and its future generations. I think it is incredibly important to equip African American males with the tools they need to affect positive change in world events.

The tireless efforts of Congressman DANNY DAVIS and his staff for organizing this effort

are to be commended. The SAAM initiative is a positive step in moving our country closer to the day when African American males will no longer be the first to drop out of school, last to become employed, first to get arrested, last to get a quality lawyer, first to die, last to see a doctor, first to be homeless, and last to get a house.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled engagement.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 455, on S.J. Res. 19, calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, "yes"; on rollcall No. 454, on H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific, "yes".

HONORING THE WILKES-BARRE SALVATION ARMY AND FRANK AND DOROTHY HENRY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Salvation Army in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as well as Frank and Dorothy Henry who have been associated with the leadership of the Salvation Army for more than four decades.

As we are well aware, the Salvation Army plays a vital role in American society, a fact brought home to us most recently by their work in the flood-ravaged Gulf Coast where, as of Sept. 6, they had distributed more than 100,000 articles of clothing and served over 400,000 meals to flood victims described by one Salvation Army officer as "emotionally devastated."

In Wilkes-Barre, the Salvation Army's work began on Jan. 12, 1885 under the leadership of then Capt. Faith Jeffries. The Salvationists were met with a mixed welcome. After their first day of warfare in Wilkes-Barre, they had rescued 24 souls "from the devil's grasp," according to an account in their newsletter, "The War Cry." However, Capt. Jeffries was arrested for playing the tambourine in the street on Sunday.

During World War II, Salvationists served coffee and doughnuts at USOs around the nation and at Union Station in Washington to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

young men who were called to the colors. In Wilkes-Barre, the Salvation Army will forever be remembered for its work providing food, clothing and emergency shelter to flood victims during the 1936 and 1972 floods.

Mr. Henry, for the past 44 years, has diligently served on the Salvation Army's board of directors, providing leadership and wise counsel. Today, the Salvation Army in Wilkes-Barre serves more than 44,000 individuals per year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Salvation Army and Mr. and Mrs. Henry for their contributions to the greater Wilkes-Barre area. The quality of life in that region has been greatly improved by the presence of the Salvation Army and community leaders like the Henrys.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.  
CHARLES T. BROWDER, SR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Clarke County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Charles T. Browder, Sr., was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life. A native of Monroe County, Alabama, Mr. Browder, for many years worked with his brother in Montgomery. In 1987, he and his family moved to the City of Thomasville, where he founded Browder and Son Veneer, a company which became an anchor of the area's business community and has grown to employ more than 80 men and women.

A popular figure in his community, Mr. Browder developed a strong reputation for his generosity and philanthropy, and was always available to help his friends and neighbors in any way possible. He was active in the congregation of Thomasville United Methodist Church, and was a member of both the Abba Shrine Temple and Oliver Lodge No. 334 F & AM.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Browder will be deeply missed by his family—his wife Annyce L. Browder; his children, Charles T. "Tom" Browder and Allen L. Browder; his sister, Gloria B. Lovinggood; his six grandchildren; and his seven great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING LARRY ERNST ON  
BEING NAMED AN IBM FELLOW

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Ernst, of Boulder, Colorado, for his recent nomination as an IBM Fellow, the company's highest and most prestigious technical honor.

IBM Fellows are selected for sustained and distinguished technical achievements in engi-

neering, programming and technology. There have only been 185 Fellows in the past 42 years of the company's existence, and currently there are only 58 active employees who share this distinction out of an astounding 325,000 employees worldwide.

IBM Fellows provide innovative solutions not only valuable for the future of this massive company, but also for the entire world. Fellows such as Mr. Ernst have developed some of the most useful products and applied technologies the industry and computer users have ever seen.

Larry Ernst has led the strategic definition and implementation of critical technologies for the Printing Systems Division, and his work in the area of print and image quality has been the foundation for many new products. Already, Mr. Ernst holds nine issued patents, serves as the patent coordinator for the division, and has been named an IBM Master Inventor for his works.

Larry Ernst joins two other distinguished Boulder residents, Ernest Booch and Joan Mitchell, as IBM Fellows. I am proud to have three out of the 58 active IBM Fellows in Colorado's Second Congressional District. It is quite a compliment to the men and women of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Larry Ernst and in wishing him continued success in all future endeavors as an IBM Fellow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHANNON  
J. WILSON, RECIPIENT OF THE  
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Shannon J. Wilson, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Shannon is a member of the Technology Center Boys and Girls Club. This organization contributed matching funds of \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Shannon J. Wilson for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF  
NATHANIEL ROCK

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Nathaniel Rock upon the death of this outstanding Marine.

Nathaniel Rock was a member of the United States Marine Corps serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a loving son to his parents, and a caring brother to Jared Rock with whom he served with as a Martins Ferry police officer. Nathaniel Rock was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Nathaniel Rock will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous Marine, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Nathaniel Rock. Your service has made us proud.

REMEMBERING JOHN H. JOHNSON

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of the publishing mogul Mr. John H. Johnson, who died on August 8, 2005 at the age of 87. Mr. Johnson rose from extreme poverty to become founder and chairman of Johnson's Publishing Company, the world's largest African-American owned publishing Company. Mr. Johnson is one of America's most distinguished entrepreneurs, whose publications have helped to change the landscape of American history.

Mr. Johnson was born on January 19, 1918, in Arkansas City during southern segregation, which played an integral role in shaping his successful future. Another element that helped shape his path was his mother. When Mr. Johnson was 8 years of age, his mother moved the family up to Chicago with the belief that the Jim Crow south was no place to nurture and raise a Black child from whom she expected greatness. Like so many other blacks from the South, his mother believed that the North provided better economic and social opportunities for African Americans. Therefore, Johnson's family took part in The Great Migration of the early 1900's and moved north.

During his high school years, Mr. Johnson worked part time for the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company (he would later become chairman of the board). Part of his duties was to prepare a digest for the company president of Black or Black-oriented stories in the American press. This gave inspiration to the establishment of his first magazine the "Negro Digest". After being refused business loans from banks and other financial institutions, Mr. Johnson used his mother's furniture as collateral for a \$500 loan. In 1942, Negro Digest

was first published and became an instant success. This became the first of his many future capital ventures. Subsequently, in 1945 Mr. Johnson launched his most successful magazine *Ebony*, which sold 25,000, making it the largest circulated Black magazine of the time. Today, with its 60 year history, *Ebony* is still a success with a circulation of 1.6 million.

In 1951, 10 years after the start of *Ebony*, Mr. Johnson started *Jet* magazine, which became the number one Black newsweekly. Subsequently, he invested in book publishing and *Fashion Fair Cosmetics*, which was designed to fit the needs of African American women by offering a complete line of high-quality beauty and skin care products for a wide variety of skin tones. Moreover, he has invested in several radio stations, and has majority ownership in the company that inspired it all, *Supreme Liberty Life Insurance*.

The success of his magazines and other business endeavors were supported by Johnson's objective to show "not only to the Negroes, but also white people that Negroes got married, had beauty contests, gave parties, ran successful businesses, and do all the other normal things of life." His publications became a vehicle for his civil rights activism. Mr. Johnson purposefully presented positive imagery of blacks as professionals, movie stars, activists, and more, to combat the many negative stereotypes that permeated throughout the collective conscience of this country, which was overwhelmingly manifested through mainstream media. *Ebony* magazine highlighted the success and achievements of African Americans, taking a more glamorized perspective of Black America, while *Jet* magazine focused on the politics, entertainment, business, and sports. President Clinton, observed that Mr. Johnson "gave African-Americans a voice and a face, in his words, 'a new sense of somebody-ness,' of who they were and what they could do, at a time when they were virtually invisible in mainstream American culture."

John Johnson made history when he published the unedited and notorious 1955 pictures of the mutilated body of 14 year old murder victim Emmett Till, who was slain in Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white girl. Johnson published the pictures to show the world the cruel reality of Jim Crow, and the violent results of legal segregation. As a result, the images of Emmett Till became the catalyst that sparked the flame that fueled the Civil Rights Movement. It was the pictures that Mr. Johnson published that inspired Rosa Parks to refuse to acquiesce and relinquish her seat to a white man, which in turn led to the kindling of the Civil Rights Movement.

As a result of Johnson's success, both in his publishing and activism, he has received many accolades and awards. In 1982 he was the first African American ever to be on *Forbes* Magazine's 400 Richest Americans. He was a member of the Publishing Hall of Fame, the National Business Hall of Fame, the Advertising Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame. He also received the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In addition, he received the Salute to Greatness Award, the highest award for the Martin Luther King Jr. center for Non-violent Social Change. In 1972 he was named

Publisher of the Year by the Magazine Publishers Association. Lastly in 1995 he was awarded America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton.

As a visionary, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and civil rights activist, Mr. Johnson's life has become one of the greatest "American dream" success stories of all time. Through his publications and other media ventures, Johnson has managed to transform the mainstream image and self-image of African Americans throughout the world. The legacy Mr. Johnson leaves is one of constant challenge. Throughout his life he has challenged and overcome the validity of old norms and has presented new ones that have helped to change both the face of African-Americans, as well as the face of our Nation.

#### HONORING THE BLOOMSBURG HOSPITAL IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Bloomsburg Hospital in Columbia County, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving citizens in that region of the Nation. I also ask that you join me in recognizing Regis P. Cabonor, CEO of Bloomsburg Hospital, and Dr. John A. Scerbo, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The first and only locally owned and operated hospital in the area, Bloomsburg Hospital's highly trained staff of physicians and technologists offer state of the art diagnostic services, and an array of women's health and psychiatric services.

Known as "The Baby Hospital," the facility has been delivering about 600 infants annually for the past several years. Special birthing suites and knowledgeable nurses ensure that families receive a warm and caring experience at this special time in their lives.

Accredited by the American College of Radiology, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the American Association of Blood Banks, the College of American Pathologists, the hospital is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Its mission is to "promote, restore and maintain health" through fully integrated health care systems and services including in-patient care, in-patient and out-patient rehabilitation and out-patient surgery.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bloomsburg Hospital on the occasion of this milestone event. The quality of life in the Bloomsburg area is clearly better because of the fine and caring work performed by the dedicated professionals at this institution.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. EMORY BUSH "E.B." PEEBLES, JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Emory Bush "E.B." Peebles, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A graduate of Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Peebles received his diploma from the Military College of South Carolina (The Citadel) in 1939. Following his graduation, he joined the United States Army Reserve with the rank of second lieutenant, and was employed by the Southern Industries Corporation. In June, 1941, he was called to active duty as a member of the United States Army and served with distinction during World War II as a member of the 31st Infantry ("Dixie") Division of the Pacific Theater. For his service, he was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, and he was promoted to the rank of major prior to his discharge in December, 1945.

Following his discharge, he was employed by Ryan Stevedoring in Mobile, and continued to work with that corporation for the next four decades. He retired from the new Ryan-Walsh Stevedoring Company in 1985 as chairman of the business.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Peebles also found time to serve in many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He served on the boards of several area businesses and financial institutions, including the Mobile Gas Service Corporation and the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company. During the mid-1960s, he served as president of the America's Junior Miss Pageant, and in 1969 served as the president of the Mobile Carnival Association. He also helped to make Mobile's Senior Bowl college football all-star game one of the preeminent events in all of college athletics, and served as president of that organization. He was also actively involved in the Mobile Touchdown Club and the Mobile Area Arts and Sports Association, and served as president of the University of South Alabama's Jaguar Club. In 1996, he was named "Mobilian of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Peebles will be deeply missed by his family—his lovely wife, Barbara Cowen Peebles; his children, E.B. Peebles, III, Laura P. Rutherford, and John D. Peebles; his stepchildren, Alley C. Butler and Douglas L. Ford; and by his seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING LEXMARK'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN BOULDER

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am very proud of my constituents in Boulder, Colorado, for their unsurpassed commitment to a clean environment. Indeed, Boulder's exceptionally clean air and water make the Second District of Colorado a very special place.

When a company can provide jobs and be a real contributor to the economy of Boulder, and it can do so in way that shows the utmost respect for the environment, the citizens of my district are doubly fortunate. Lexmark International, Inc. is just such a company.

One of the world's largest manufacturers of printers and developers of printing solutions, Lexmark has a large facility in Boulder that has recently achieved ISO (International Standardization Organization) 14001 certification for its environmental management system. ISO 14001 is the world's most recognized environmental management system framework, helping organizations better manage their impact on the environment and continually improve their environmental performance.

Lexmark employees worked for years to achieve this important certification. Such certifications do not come easily, and Lexmark's employees in Boulder are to be commended for their commitment to pollution prevention and for the overall environmental ethic that enabled them to achieve this important milestone.

This achievement is only the most recent environmental award received by the Lexmark facility in Boulder. In 2003, the city of Boulder awarded its PACE (Partners for a Clean Environment) Pioneer Award to Lexmark. This award is given annually to the business best exemplifying the goals of the PACE program.

For almost a decade beginning in 1993, Lexmark participated in the Colorado Governor's Pollution Prevention Challenge, and the plant also received the U.S. EPA's 33/50 award for toxic chemical use reduction in the early-to-mid 1990s.

In all, the record this facility has established for well over a decade is remarkable. My hat is off to the employees at the Lexmark facility in Boulder who share such an obviously genuine and profound commitment to environmental protection.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending Lexmark for this notable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled engagement.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 457. On H.R. 3169, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster: "yes."

(2) Rollcall No. 456. On H.R. 3650, to allow United States Courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes: "yes."

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAMALA S. FARQUHARS, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Kamala S. Farquhars, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Kamala is a member of the North Fort Worth Boys and Girls Club. The organization matched the \$500 federal fund scholarship.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Kamala S. Farquhars for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL. AARON H. REED

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Lance Cpl. Aaron H. Reed upon the death of this outstanding Marine who served with the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Fourth Division, Lima Company.

Lance Cpl. Aaron H. Reed was an active member of the Richmond Dale Church of God where his devotion to the Lord was fostered though his commitment to the Youth Group. He was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Lance Cpl. Aaron H. Reed will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self

while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous Marine, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Lance Cpl. Aaron H. Reed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of New Orleans and all other Gulf Coast residents affected by this horrific disaster. As a nation we have watched with horror as the city of New Orleans has faced Hurricane Katrina and been overtaken by the waters of Lake Pontchartrain. We have seen the heart-wrenching stories that restore your faith, but sadly we have also seen the opposite.

Lives have been interrupted. Families separated. And many now face an uncertain future of trying to locate family and friends as well as begin to rebuild their lives, many from scratch. With the victims dispersed across this nation, when this can begin is not known. The full impact of Hurricane Katrina—emotionally, physically and financially—will not be known for years and more realistically decades.

It is during tragedies like this, that we must come together as Americans to help our fellow citizens in their time of need. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise the hundreds of Americans who are working day and night to help rescue and bring relief to the thousands of people trapped in the affected area.

From the start, the American people have again shown their unity of spirit and their willingness to aid those in the midst of this devastation. And these are not only professional rescue personnel but simply kind-hearted neighbors who may have a boat, or some extra water or blankets and are scouring the area looking for survivors. I cannot imagine the difficulties they are facing and the sacrifices they have made to help their fellow Americans. I thank them for all their efforts and pray that they remain safe themselves and return home to their families.

I commend the generosity of the American people, including my home town of Sacramento, which because of its location at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers has a unique understanding of being a flood-threatened city. I am proud of their generosity and extension of assistance—sending its firefighters, search and rescue teams and opening its doors to hundreds of victims of Hurricane Katrina who are unable to return to their homes. Their efforts to restore a sense of normalcy for those who have been so uprooted are a testament to them.

I also share the frustration of so many with the early response of our government to this crisis. While the conditions under which the relief workers are functioning are catastrophic

we can and must do better. Our primary focus must be on getting to those who are still stranded and need immediate assistance. Once that is accomplished I feel strongly that Congress must take a critical look at this response effort.

This is a moment of national sorrow. Sorrow at not preventing the preventable and sorrow for the tragic circumstances that came to be. Yet it is also a moment of national unity that is truly heart-warming.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I send my thoughts and prayers to all those affected by Hurricane Katrina and I thank all those brave and generous Americans who are working to bring assistance and relief to the region. The outpouring of generosity from Americans across the country can make us all proud.

#### CONGRATULATING THE TRACY NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

### HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy National Little League All-star team, from my hometown in Tracy, California. This group of 12-year-olds rose up through the ranks, first becoming District 67 champs, then Section 3 champs, then Northern California champs, and finally Western Region Runner-ups.

Players Casey Ankam, Brock Blades, Jeramee Campbell, Dominic D'souze, Alex Flores, Michael Hager, Jacob Lopez, Kyle Moses, Tyler Sanfilippo, Tyler Trew, Jacob Valdez, Joshua Wesley and Casey Wichman showed great talent and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication really paid off, taking them nearly all the way to the Little League World Series. Manager Emmett Lee and Coaches John Moses and Rob Wichman provide great leadership for the boys, and were instrumental in their success.

As many of you know, I am a big baseball fan. My son Richie plays on his high school team, and each year I look forward to playing in the Congressional Baseball Game. I am very proud of these kids from Tracy, and know that the skills they learn on the diamond—teamwork, competition, dedication—will serve them well throughout their lives. I look forward to following their progress again next season and know they will be even better.

#### IN HONOR OF THE WARD'S 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a special couple from Caraway, AR, Ode and Beatrice Ward, who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on September 20, 2005. This is a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Ode and Beatrice Ward met in Leachville, AR, and decided to marry in the fall of 1930.

The couple made their home in northeast Arkansas and spent the next 42 years growing cotton, soybeans, and milo. Throughout the years, the Wards were blessed with three children, James E. Ward, Vondella W. Davis, and Lois M. Meadows, and now have the pleasure of spending time with six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Their love for each other and their family extends to their neighbors as well, where they continue to stay involved in their community. They remain active members in the political process and are often seen participating in local activities and events. Their energy is truly remarkable and perhaps the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

A 75th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Ode and Beatrice Ward have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

On September 20, 2005, Ode and Beatrice Ward will join many of their family and friends at a celebration to honor their 75 years of marriage. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA BOGLE

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one who was an extraordinary force behind the recent designation of the Congaree Swamp National Monument as a National Park. When Martha Bogle came to this 22,200-acre National Parks Service site near Columbia, SC, in 1995, about 50,000 people each year visited the old-growth bottomland hardwood forest that was designated a national monument. Today that figure has tripled and it is due in large measure to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Bogle.

Upon her arrival, Ms. Bogle realized the majesty of the towering pines and giant hardwoods, but access to the facility was so poor that few visitors were enjoying these amazing vistas. As the new superintendent, Ms. Bogle looked for a cost-effective way the community could join in making this hidden jewel more accessible. Her tenacity paid off when she convinced the South Carolina National Guard to partner with the Parks Service in building a new entrance road and visitors center. The result was an award-winning, 12,000 square foot visitors center with wonderful educational tools and roads and parking lots that could better accommodate visitors. This was quite an accomplishment for Ms. Bogle's first foray as a park superintendent.

Still her vision for the site was not complete. With improved facilities and access, Ms. Bogle embarked upon a campaign to turn the Congaree Swamp National Monument into a national park. This was an even greater undertaking because only 52 of the National Parks Service's 388 sites were designated as na-

tional parks. Yet Ms. Bogle found allies in my former colleague, Senator Fritz Hollings, and myself, and we joined her and the many "Friends of the Congaree" in the fight to secure the designation. After some difficult days and lots of hard work on the part of Ms. Bogle and many others, on November 10, 2003, the President signed legislation that officially changed the Congaree Swamp National Monument into the Congaree National Park. In addition, we were able to include in the legislation, at Ms. Bogle's request, a 4,600-acre expansion of the site. As she departs, Ms. Bogle is working to acquire the additional property from willing sellers.

Ms. Bogle's love of nature began in her childhood in a small Tennessee town. Upon her graduation from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor's in Botany, Ms. Bogle wasted no time in securing a position with the National Parks Service. Her 26-year career has taken her to nine National Parks Service sites and one national wildlife refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, and my colleagues to join me today in thanking Martha Bogle for her tremendous contributions to the Congaree National Park, and wish her well as she leaves South Carolina to become assistant superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. No matter where she serves in the National Park Service, Ms. Bogle brings an infectious joy in her surroundings and a commitment that will insure our Nation's natural treasures are preserved and protected for many generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAVONTREAL ALLEN, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Chavontreal Allen, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Chavontreal is a member of the Frisco Boys and Girls Clubs of Collins County. This organization contributed matching funds of \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Chavontreal Allen for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

TAIWAN'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE  
GOODWILL MISSION

## HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Republic of China, Taiwan, has sent an Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill and there will be a signing ceremony between the Mission and its American grain suppliers on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at 9 a.m. in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol Building.

It is also my understanding that Taiwan's Goodwill Mission will sign letters of intent to purchase 14.5 million metric tons, equivalent to 559 million bushels, of U.S. wheat, soybeans and corn in 2006 and 2007. The mission's tannery group will also sign a statement with American suppliers to buy up to 6 million pieces of "wet salted hide" and "wet blue hide" for years 2006 and 2007. The total value of all the purchases will amount to \$3.1 billion.

I welcome Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill. Two years ago, the same Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission came to the Hill and signed letters of intent agreeing to purchase \$2.87 billion for the years 2004 and 2005. The last mission planned to buy 15.1 metric tons, approximately 581 bushels, of wheat, soybeans and corns and 4 million pieces of hide. As of June 2005, Taiwan had already purchased 10.5 metric tons, equivalent to 404 million bushels, of U.S. grain. And in 2004, Taiwan purchased an additional 3 million pieces of U.S. hide in 2004. Given Taiwan's long history as an excellent customer for U.S. agricultural products, it is reasonable to expect Taiwan to fulfill all its agreed-upon commitments and more.

Taiwan has had a very strong trade relations with our Nation. Year after year, Taiwan has imported U.S. cattle hides, U.S. hog skins, soybean, corn and wheat and other agricultural products, amounting to billions of dollars for American producers. We hope this trend will continue in the future as our agricultural exports to Taiwan greatly benefit our grain exporters and farmers.

I join my colleagues in welcoming members of Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill to Capitol Hill and I wish Dr. Chen Hsi-Huang, Mr. Kuo Hsin-Hong and Mr. Wang Tsong-ming, heads of The Soybean and Corn Delegation, The Wheat Delegation and The Hide Delegation, and members of the delegation a pleasant journey as they travel to Iowa, Ohio, Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, Kansas, and Texas to meet with state and local officials and suppliers.

We also hope they will return to Capitol Hill again next year.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained

and missed rollcall votes numbered 456 and 457. Rollcall vote 456 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650, a bill to allow United States Courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes. Rollcall vote 457 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3169, a bill to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 456 and 457.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-  
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-  
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

## HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3645, which will provide an initial installment of desperately needed supplemental funding for disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region. Hurricane Katrina has left untold devastation and loss in its wake, and it is critical that we do everything we can to get assistance to those who need it without delay.

I have received dozens of calls this week from Rhode Islanders who are angry and frustrated by the horrific images they are seeing from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. They are right to be outraged by the utter failure of our government to ensure the prompt evacuation and rescue of stranded residents or to deliver needed medical supplies, food and clean drinking water to the tens of thousands of people whose very survival depends on it.

The Federal reaction to this crisis has been slow and ill-coordinated, which is particularly troubling in light of the advance notice and warning systems we are able to rely upon in hurricane and other natural disaster situations. I am deeply concerned not only about the response to this disaster, but about how much worse it could have been had we been given no warning, as in the case of a terrorist attack.

Four years after September 11th and tens of billions of dollars later, we should have been better prepared for this disaster. We have received countless assurances from the Administration that this Nation is ready and equipped to keep our citizens safe, but our citizens have just come face to face with the truth, and it tells a shockingly different story.

In the weeks and months to come, there will be many, many tough questions to be answered on the part of Federal officials and others. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to get to the bottom of this national failure as we carefully examine what went wrong, how the region and Federal Government could have been better prepared, and what must be done to ensure this kind of situation is never repeated. We must look at the

organization of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, funding for disaster response, coordination between domestic agencies and the military, interoperable communications, public health preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and much more.

However, as the crisis continues, it is important that we focus on the critical days ahead and concentrate our efforts on ensuring that we are doing everything in our power from this point forward. Hundreds of thousands of displaced residents, many of whom have lost everything, are looking to us for help, and we can not let them down. Today's supplemental appropriation will provide an infusion of funding to allow immediate needs to be met, and my colleagues and I will be ready to provide whatever additional assistance may become necessary as the response progresses.

Today, my thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost loved ones, had their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and who continue to suffer in terrible conditions, not knowing what the future may hold. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to those who are working to offer whatever assistance they can. Thousands of National Guard troops, local first responders, relief workers and others are putting their lives on hold to help, and we should all do whatever we can to aid in those efforts as well.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3645.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JOHN  
WALSH

## HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and service of Willimantic Fire Department Chief John Walsh, who has served the Connecticut community of Willimantic for more than two decades. He has served as a firefighter for more than 50 years.

Chief Walsh began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1954. In January 1960 he joined the Hartford Fire Department where he demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and ability. In 1968 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1980 he achieved the rank of Captain. In December 1983 he became Chief of the Willimantic Fire Department.

His work on behalf of his fellow firefighters extended beyond the community. In 1988 and 1989 he was President of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs and he is a member of the New England Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Association.

Firefighters are on call seven days a week, 12 months a year. There are no holidays for firefighters. Tragedy never takes a holiday and when it strikes a community, firefighters are among the first to respond.

Individuals are not recognized for what they have taken but for what they have given. Chief John Walsh's family, colleagues and friends honor him for what he has given to his community. I am proud to add my voice to theirs. Through his commitment and character he has made Willimantic a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you, Chief Walsh, for your service.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITAS HOSPITAL'S  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution of Trinitas Hospital to my home State of New Jersey. Their commitment to the health and health care of all New Jerseyans is laudable, and most worthy of our recognition in this chamber here today.

On Tuesday, September 13, 2005, they will dedicate their brand new, \$28 million, five-story Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, which will house the Hospital's state-of-the-art Medical and Radiation Oncology programs, including technology that will be the first of its kind in the State, giving their staff the resources they need to ensure that cancer care in New Jersey is the best in the Nation.

Trinitas Hospital is a full service healthcare facility and a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They care for and serve many of my friends and neighbors in my district.

The hospital already serves our community by offering the greatest of cancer care, providing services from diagnostics to chemotherapy treatment to patient and family counseling, as well as everything in between. In addition, the Hospital conducts a large number of outreach programs for the community to screen for breast, prostate, cervical, and colon cancers, and to educate community members about cancer detection and prevention. In a State like ours, where New Jersey residents have a 16 percent higher incidence of cancer than the national average, education and prevention are the keys to overcoming the battle against this insidious disease, and Trinitas Hospital is, and continues to be, a leader in this all-important fight.

I would also like to commend them for their efforts to raise awareness about minority health disparities in New Jersey, and to offer services to fill the gap in health care quality for our minority citizens. Their concern about the higher incidence of cancer among minorities led to the establishment of the Breast Health Outreach program, which provides crucial information on cancer prevention to thousands of minority women each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me as I recognize Trinitas Hospital and the men and women there who are dedicated to making our community a better place; and I encourage my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulatory best wishes as they dedicate their new Comprehensive Cancer Center facility.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN  
ELLIOT, RECIPIENT OF THE  
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Jordan Elliot, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen stu-

dents in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Jordan is a recent graduate at Lewisville High School and the organization matching her \$500 in Federal funds is the Tau Rho Omega Chapter.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Jordan Elliot for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I volunteered at the Houston Astrodome to assist in relieving the victims of Hurricane Katrina. On Tuesday, September 6, 2005, en route to Washington, DC, from Houston, a passenger on my aircraft attempted to commit suicide and the flight was temporarily rerouted to Nashville, TN. As a result, my flight was significantly delayed in landing at Dulles airport, causing me to miss votes for both H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific, and S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of both resolutions, H. Res. 360 and S.J. Res. 19.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL NASSER

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a giant of the medical community last week. On Friday, September 2, Dr. William Nasser passed away at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, where he started a cardiology program 32 years earlier.

Bill Nasser's own battle with heart problems led him to launch a cardiology network in Indiana so that Hoosiers would no longer have to travel hundreds of miles just to receive basic care.

As Bill graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1961, a bacterial in-

fection made him an open-heart surgery patient at a time when the procedure was performed at great risk with low survival rates. His heart valve was replaced three times over the next 18 years.

Bill's condition undoubtedly connected him with the very patients he served at the Care Group, a partnership with St. Vincent Hospital that runs the Heart Center of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Dr. Bill Nasser, specifically his wife Wanda; his sons Thomas and Tony Nasser; his daughter Teresa Carlock; his sisters Beverly Radez and Dolores Polifroni; and his five beloved grandchildren.

Bill Nasser embodied the allegiance to a community that every town in America wishes of its citizens. The State of Indiana was fortunate to call him one of its own. Indiana will miss Dr. William Nasser.

PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND  
DISASTER RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to assist college students who have been victimized by widespread devastation visited on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina last week. We, in North Carolina, know well the destruction hurricanes can cause as our State has been hit by at least five major hurricanes over the past decade. The Federal Government has a solemn responsibility to help those in need, and H.R. 3169 is one very small step in that effort.

Specifically, H.R. 3169 will relieve some burden for displaced college students who otherwise would be required to pay back their Pell grants. This bill would allow the U.S. Education Department to waive the repayment requirement for Pell grant recipients whose school attendance is interrupted because of the impact of a disaster, provided that the students were living, working or attending school in an area designated by the President to warrant major disaster assistance.

Congress must also pass legislation introduced by Congressman GEORGE MILLER and Congressman DALE KILDEE to provide more comprehensive relief for student victims of the storm. Nearly 100,000 college students have been displaced, while some 30 colleges in the Gulf Coast region have been severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Many students and families no longer have the necessary resources to pay for college—even after their current Federal student aid is taken into account. We need to ensure that we help all college students and student borrowers who have been adversely impacted by this disaster.

Congress has much, much more work to do to assist in the relief, recovery and reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. H.R. 3129 is a minimal early step in that effort, and I urge its adoption.



# RECOGNIZING THE RANCHO BUENA VISTA LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM AND THEIR COACHES

## HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rancho Buena Vista Little League all star team and their coaches. I want to congratulate them on an outstanding performance at the recent Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

I want to recognize Manager Marty Miller and Coaches Joe Pimentel and Randy Reznicek, whose years of service to the community through Little League Baseball at Rancho Buena Vista have inspired many young athletes throughout our community. It is through the dedication, strength of character, and devotion of men like Marty, Joe and Randy that these young men have flourished, not only in athletic skill but in character.

The Rancho Buena Vista Little League team won 25 of the 26 games they played last season and made it to the United States Championship game. They displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout both the regular season and during the Little League World Series. From the first pitch of the season to the Little League World Series finals, they played the game with dignity and won our respect in the process.

Unquestionably, the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League team are not only exceptional athletes but also exceptional young men. They played with resolve and focus in the face of spirited competition and I am proud to be their Representative, and to stand in their honor today, Mr. Speaker. Their accomplishments serve as an example of the positive impact that Little League baseball has on its young participants.

Once again I would like to congratulate the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Team—Royce Copeland, Daniel Gibney, Danny Vivier, Johnny Lee, Josh Gomez, Aaron Kim, Kalen Pimentel, Austin White, Dylan de Meyer, Ryan Gura, Nathan Lewis, Reed Reznicek and their coaches—on their remarkable achievement. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding these young men for their exceptional accomplishments and continued success.

# HONORING THE JACKSON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION FOR 55 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS AND DEDICATION TO THE JACKSON COMMUNITY

## HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association for 55 years of beautiful music and a commitment to community service in Jackson County. I commend the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for both its high quality performing arts programs and its out-

reach to the community through concerts, music education, and partnerships with area educators and community service providers.

For more than five decades, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra has brought outstanding artists and a wide variety of music venues to Jackson audiences. Over the years, there have been numerous world premieres; performances in ballet, opera, and jazz; and an emphasis on works by 20th century composers.

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association champions the arts through music education. It operates a community music school that provides private instruction on all orchestral instruments, early childhood music classes, home school orchestras, a string academy, and after-school string instruction for children at risk. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra educational programming directly reaches over 1,500 young people each year and reaches an additional 4,000 families each year through family concerts, in-school performances, and special events.

Beyond the concert stage, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, through its presence in the community, has created an environment that has contributed to the development of many local arts organizations. These include the Jackson Chorale, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and the Jackson Youth Symphony. The presence of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra is also regularly credited as a factor in attracting new business and key employees into the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for its 55 years of dedication in the performing arts, as well as to the community. I commend their use of innovative programs which has provided musical education for the Jackson community. I expect the Jackson Symphony Orchestra to continue their path of excellence for years into the future.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER V. SEXTON, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

## HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Christopher V. Sexton, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Christopher is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth—Panther

Branch. The organization graciously matched the federally funding with a \$500 contribution.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Christopher V. Sexton for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

# FREEDOM FOR JULIO CÉSAR LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ

## HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Julio César López Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. López Rodríguez is an independent librarian and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. According to Human Rights First, Mr. López Rodríguez is Vice President of the Frente Línea Dura movement and Director of its independent library. He is a longtime activist for democratic change.

Independent librarians in Cuba, such as Mr. López Rodríguez, provide the indispensable service of circulating truth at a time when the tyrannical regime provides only propaganda. These heroic librarians circulate important works, including literature written by authors such as George Orwell, Václav Havel, and Dr. Martin Luther King, whose works are among the classics of anti-totalitarian literature.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on 22 July, Mr. López Rodríguez was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, approximately 30 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

Mr. López Rodríguez is currently languishing in an abhorrent, inhuman cell in the totalitarian gulag. The State Department reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Despite the regime's constant gangster style repression, freedom and democracy are on the march in Cuba. Courageous leaders like Mr. López Rodríguez defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Through their bravery, through their actions, and because of their unwavering commitment, and the works of thousands of other Cuban patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence, Mr. López Rodríguez languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Julio César López Rodríguez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.



A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RALPH  
E. BLANKS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Ralph E. Blanks for his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District. An inspirational member of our community and roll model to all, Reverend Blanks has served as the Senior Pastor of Janes Memorial United Methodist Church since July of 2001. Prior, Reverend Blanks served for more than 15 years as the Pastor of Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church—the Mother Church for African Americans in the United Methodism.

Beyond his church ministry, Reverend Blanks also serves in leadership positions in several prestigious faith-based organizations. He is currently Chair of the United Methodist Metro Ministries of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Chair of the Resource Development Committee of the African American Interdenominational Ministries, Inc.

His religious involvement in the community is not the only extent to which Reverend Blanks gives so generously to others. He is also a current Mayoral appointee to the School District of Philadelphia Board and Chair of the City of Philadelphia's Fair Housing Commission. Among other honors, he serves as the Vice Chair of the North Philadelphia Health System, Chair of the Patient Services Committee of St. Joseph's Hospital and several community boards including the Korean Community Development Service Center and Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc.

Among the many awards given to Reverend Blanks, the Community Spirit Award from the African American Interdenominational Ministries; the Presidents award from the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity; the Human Rights Award from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations; the Preacher of the Year Award by the Black United Methodist Preachers; the Outstanding Service to Community and Church Award from the City Council of Philadelphia; and the Liberty Bell Award from the City of Philadelphia.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Ralph E. Blanks, for his lifetime of service and dedicated commitment to the community, on his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I accompanied constituents of mine from West Plains, Missouri, as they delivered supplies to the people that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. As a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, and 459 on September 6, 7, and 8, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all of the aforementioned rollcall votes.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN  
SHUI-BIAN

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In late September he will be making a brief stop in Miami en route to Central America and later staying overnight in San Francisco on his way back to Taiwan. During his stopovers in Miami and San Francisco, I am hopeful that a few of my colleagues will have a chance to visit with him, and—more importantly—exchange views on Taiwan's future, Taiwan's relations with China and the United States, and Taiwan's bid to re-enter the United Nations.

In the last five years, President Chen has shown strong leadership in guiding his people through turbulent times. Despite worldwide financial challenges, Taiwan's economy has continued to grow and despite pressures from Taiwan's opposition leaders, Taiwan has been faithful to its route of constitutional reform and full democratization. Today, Taiwan continues to be a beacon of prosperity and freedom throughout Asia. Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy high standards of living and full rights of freedom and liberty.

President Chen has been deft in handling cross-strait relations. Despite China's passage of the anti-secession law last spring, China's positioning of 700 missiles along Taiwan's coast and China's many other unfriendly acts toward Taiwan, President Chen has insisted on a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and an early resumption of talks between himself and other Chinese leaders. President Chen fully understands that peace and stability within the Taiwan Strait are in global community's best interest.

As for Taiwan's relations with the United States, we have strong trade and cultural relations with Taiwan. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and cultural exchanges between our two countries are vibrant. Moreover, we are committed to defending Taiwan under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, and we are fully committed to a peaceful solution of the Taiwan issue—no military conflict should ever occur in the Taiwan Strait. Moreover, we appreciate Taiwan's full cooperation with us in combating terrorism, its monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, Pentagon Memorial Fund and its offer of humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

It is regrettable that Taiwan has been excluded from many world organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations. It has been a gross injustice to deny Taiwan's 23 million people their proper voice in the world. The United States should take more active steps in helping Taiwan re-enter the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

It is my hope that President Chen and the people of Taiwan will receive both proper and greater international attention as President Chen travels to Central America and hopefully to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Busan, Korea, this November. The story of Taiwan, in the person of President Chen, needs to be told and heard around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK  
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONT-  
GOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF ITS FOURTEENTH AN-  
NUAL CONFERENCE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Task Force on Mentoring (TFM) of Montgomery County on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference entitled "Saving Our Children—Compassionate Mentoring", which will be held on the Rockville campus of Johns Hopkins University on Thursday, October 6, 2005.

For more than fifteen years, the TFM has been a mainstay of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has been repeatedly recognized for the high quality mentoring programs it has implemented in partnership with many of our community's schools, civic organizations and, more recently, correctional facilities. Moreover, as if to underscore the spirit guiding its work, the TFM offers all of its recruitment assistance, training expertise and technical support free of charge.

Because of the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County—and its legions of trained and dedicated volunteers—more and more of our youth are growing up to become active, positive participants in our community. They are making great plans to lead great lives.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County and in thanking the TFM for its consistent commitment to the children and youth of Montgomery County, Maryland.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES EDWIN  
KUHN

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a good friend and a great American, Mr. James Edwin Kuhn of El Centro, California. Jim died shortly after midnight on Monday, August 29, 2005, when his sports utility vehicle overturned on Evan Hewes Highway.

Those of us who knew Jim best remember a family man and an agricultural innovator who shared his passion for the outdoors. He is from a family of farmers that settled in Imperial Valley in the early years of the 20th century and helped build one of the strongest agricultural sectors in the country.

Jim was born April 21, 1964, spending much of his early childhood working on the family farm. In high school, he shined as a wrestler and a football player, demonstrating himself as a leader and making obvious his desire for success. Jim's father reinforced the importance of receiving a well-rounded college education, but also advised him to learn as much as he could about Imperial Valley, business, and agriculture. When he graduated

high school, Jim left for Stanford University and graduated in 1986 with a degree in Slavic languages and literature. He immediately returned to Imperial Valley and continued the Kuhn farming tradition started by Jim's grandfather.

Jim immediately began looking and thinking of ways to improve and expand the family business. He took his father's idea of exporting compressed hay to dairies in Japan and before long, Kuhn farms grew into a large, vertically-integrated farming, processing, and exporting company with more than 300 employees. Jim received much admiration and respect from his workers and their families, and just like Jim, they took great pride in the word done at Kuhn farms.

While maintaining a reputation as an innovator in the transport and international sale of hay and forage products, Jim also founded KF Dairy in 1992 and, in conjunction with Gossner Foods of Utah, established Imperial Valley Cheese—a local cheese production facility. He is also credited for introducing Klein Grass to Imperial Valley, where it has become a significant crop.

Jim also created the Salton Sea International Bird Festival in an effort to share with the community his passion for photographing birdlife and desert scenery. He recognized the value and beauty of Imperial Valley, and wanted nothing more than to show everyone living, visiting, or traveling through his community that agriculture and wildlife can coexist. The Bird Festival has become an annual event bringing people from all over the world to Imperial Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I know Jim's loving wife, Heidi, and his two children, Vienna and Fritz, will continue to share with family and friends his passion for adventure and the outdoors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and paying tribute to the life and memory of James Edwin Kuhn.

#### HONORING THE EAST BRANDYWINE FIRE COMPANY

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Brandywine Fire Company, Station 49, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

The East Brandywine Fire Company has a long and distinguished history of improving the quality of life within its community by providing the highest quality of emergency fire and medical service. Located in Guthriesville, Pennsylvania, the East Brandywine Fire Company proudly serves both East and West Brandywine Townships and a portion of Upper Uwchlan Township. The Company was formed out of necessity in 1955 when two devastating fires broke out and the existing fire companies didn't respond in a timely manner. Residents were upset by the slow response and decided to take matters into their own hands and form a fire company of their own. On April 12, 1956, a charter was drawn and the East Brandywine Fire Company had its first monthly meeting.

Today, the Company consists of 20 plus active members who are always on call. The

members meet weekly for training and update themselves regularly on new fire training and rescue techniques so they can be prepared for any emergency situation they may be presented with. In total, the Company serves 26 square miles and approximately 14,000 people. Over the past 50 years, literally hundreds of men and women made significant contributions of time and effort to the Company.

An important asset of the East Brandywine Fire Company is the Ladies Auxiliary—an organization that has played multiple roles throughout the Company's history. The Auxiliary has brought in thousands of dollars by catering banquets, selling antiques, and hosting chicken barbeques in the community. Today, there are 90 members, 15 of which are active.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the East Brandywine Fire Company, Station 49, for their invaluable service and contributions they have made to their community over the past 50 years.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND BIRTHDAY OF JACK DANIEL

#### HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, travel to almost any country in the world, tell folks you're from Tennessee, and they're likely to respond with a smile and the name of someone they know from my 4th Congressional District—Jack Daniel.

I'm proud to represent the people who craft one of America's best-known and most-beloved products. Every drop of the 7 million cases of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey wetting the whistles of folks in more than 140 countries is made and mellowed, drop by drop, in Lynchburg, Tennessee. That's quite an accomplishment for a town with just one traffic light and whose population is advertised as just 361.

Now, to tell you the truth, Lynchburg's population is a bit larger than that. As one of my Moore County constituents has confided, "Why does it say population 361 on the bottle? There is probably five or six hundred people living in Lynchburg. They just want us to look small."

Small or not, as the home to the Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey and America's oldest registered distillery, Lynchburg and Moore County have made sizeable contributions to the American way of life. In fact, the little town of Lynchburg may be the largest per capita tax contributor in the country when it comes to federal revenues generated by the fruits of their labors. Each gallon of whiskey in Jack Daniel's warehouses will generate about \$13.50 in federal taxes. Multiply by the more than a million gallons resting in each warehouse, then multiply it again by the 74 warehouses dotting the hillsides, and it adds up to right at a billion dollars. And that's not just a one-time contribution. The whiskey made by the people of Moore County and the Jack Daniel Distillery generates more than \$115 million a year in federal, state and local taxes across the country.

But as significant as these taxes revenues are, Jack Daniel's contributions to American culture are far greater. Through the years,

Jack Daniel's virtues have been heralded by presidents, movie stars and musicians.

U.S. Vice President John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, in office during the repeal of Prohibition, was said to have invited friends to his office right here in the Capitol to "strike a blow for liberty" with the help of Jack Daniel's.

It's been reported that Winston Churchill approved of the whiskey to the point his appreciation provoked extraordinary discomfort among his country's Scotch-makers.

Jack Daniel's association with the Rat Pack and its Chairman of the Board, Frank Sinatra, is legendary. During his lifetime, he was said to have always traveled with a supply of Jack Daniel's just in case his favorite libation was unavailable. That may also be the case with his final journey. A small bottle of Jack is reported to have been buried with Mr. Sinatra.

With this rich heritage, the legend of Jack Daniel's lives on stronger than ever today. The Rolling Stone, has named Jack Daniel's an American Icon while Stephan Jenkins of Third Eye Blind—a popular rock band, so I am told—has said to the people of Lynchburg, "Ya'll should be proud of yourselves because Rock 'n' Roll would not have been invented without your product."

And, finally, no less than the great American writer and Noble Prize-winning author William Faulkner once sized up Jack Daniel's real appeal when he said "It's a good thing that in a changing world there are some things you can count on, like the quality of Jack Daniel's."

As in the best of American stories, Jack Daniel rose to its heralded place from humble beginnings. It all started with Jasper Newton Daniel born in Lynchburg sometime in September, sometime around 1850. Then as now, Jasper Newtown's friends just called him Jack. And a fortunate thing, since I can't imagine a glass of Jasper would have captured the America's fancy as completely. Jack was just five-foot-two-inches tall and left home before he'd reached the age of ten. He took up with and learned the art of making whiskey from a local Lutheran preacher named Dan Call and his African American still hand, Nearest Green. Jack later bought the minister's distilling operation when Call's congregation forced their spiritual advisor to choose between making spirits and saving them.

About the time Jack set out on his own, the American Civil War broke out. The land around Lynchburg was taken and retaken by Union troops seven times, and the foraging armies of the North and South made corn and grain for whiskey-making hard to come by. Through it all, Jack held fast to his simple philosophy—"Every day that we make it, we'll make it the best that we can."

Making it Mr. Jack's way meant adding an extra step to the traditional whiskey-making process. Jack mellowed his whiskey drop by drop through 10 feet of sugar maple charcoal before putting it up to mature in white oak barrels. This extra blessing added time and expense to making his whiskey, but a taste of what emerged from the barrels had most folks agreeing it was worth the wait. During its 150-some-year history, Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 has been awarded seven international gold medals, beginning with the first it won at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The 1904 World's Fair helped usher in the American Century, which the little man from Tennessee and his whiskey was destined to be a growing part of.

In 1911, the distillery was left to Jack Daniel's nephew Lem Motlow, who watched over the distillery through 29 years of state and national prohibition. One of the ways Mr. Lem occupied himself during those long dry years was to engage in one of the grandest of diversions—politics. Straightforward to a fault, Lem ran for the state legislature on the campaign promise—"Elect me and I'll do something for myself! But I'll also do something for you!" And that's exactly what he did. Lem eventually helped change the law in Tennessee so that he could return to making whiskey and his friends could go back to enjoying it.

Major General George S. Patton and his Second Armored Division trained in Camp Forrest, a military base near Lynchburg, in 1941. Along with learning the tactics that would ultimately free Europe, the men who trained there acquired a taste for Jack Daniel's—a taste they would eventually take home with them, spreading the word about this smooth Tennessee spirit. Sales of Jack Daniel's rocketed from 150,000 cases in the early 1950s to more than 1 million cases by 1970. To support this rapid growth and to make sure friends of Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 wouldn't have to go without, Lem's four sons entrusted the care of their Uncle Jack's distillery to another American whiskey family—the Browns of Louisville, Kentucky.

Brown-Forman Corporation purchased the Jack Daniel's Distillery in 1956 and wisely left untouched the whiskey-making and mellowing methods faithfully practiced by the distillery for more than a century. Under the watchful care of Brown-Forman, Jack Daniel's Old Tennessee Whiskey has continued to make new friends, satisfying people of different tastes by bringing along side its venerable Old No. 7 brand new family members like Jack Daniel's Single Barrel, Gentleman Jack Rare Tennessee Whiskey and Jack Daniel's Country Cocktails.

Jack Daniel's and Brown-Forman have long been industry leaders in promotion responsible drinking. These are good folks. They want their products enjoyed but never abused. Each year, they invest millions of dollars in The Century Council's award winning educational programs to combat drunk driving and underage drinking. Their brand advertising, replete with images of the beautiful landscape and good people of Moore County, is highly responsible. And most recently, Jack Daniel's has carried this message to millions of Americans through a NASCAR sponsorship promoting the use of designated drivers and—literally and figuratively—driving home the message emblazoned on the aptly numbered 07 car—"Pace Yourself. Drink Responsibly."

This care for the whiskey, the consumers who enjoy it and the special people and special place where it is made are the things that add up to the global legend of Jack Daniel's today. Under the watchful care of Brown-Forman Corporation Chairman Owsley Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Varga, Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford and the good people of Moore County and Lynchburg, Tennessee, I'm proud to inform the House that Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 become this year the No. 1 selling whiskey in the world. Congratulations, Moore County, and Mr. Jack.

Finally, in honor of Jack Daniel's and the people of Moore County, their status in the world as ambassadors of American culture, hard work, and timeless truths; and in this the

month in which we celebrate the birth of Mr. Jack Daniel, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saying—Here's to the spirit of America, Mr. Jack of Lynchburg, Moore County, Tennessee, 155 years old, and still out on the town—responsibly—every night.

#### IN HONOR AND LOVING MEMORY OF NICO TRUJILLO

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in loving tribute and memory of Nico Trujillo, who passed away at the age of 94 on September 1, 2005.

The second oldest of nine brothers and sisters, Nico was born and raised in St. Johns, Arizona. Her commitment to public service was evident even as a young woman, when she advocated for equal rights for women and minorities in her community. She ran for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives in 1954, but withdrew her candidacy due to pregnancy complications. In 1956, Nico was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and again in 1960 during John F. Kennedy's nomination by the Democratic Party. Nico remained politically active throughout her life, campaigning for Governor Paul Fannin, Eddie Basha, Governor Hull, and Governor Napolitano.

On December 24, 1933, Nico married the love of her life, Lugarno Trujillo, and they were blessed with six children: Wallace, Gladys, Dennis, Richard, Jerri, and Gail. The loving couple also helped raise children of their extended family who tragically lost their parents at an early age. Nico was the beloved grandmother of sixteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. As a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, she instilled in her family the values of education, faith in God, and responsibility to one's family and community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Nico's strong sense of service to her community, love of family, and deep faith that defined her life. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for her community. Nico lived her life with compassion, energy, and an unwavering commitment to the public good. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends, and her legacy will forever live on in the memories and hearts of those who knew and loved her well.

#### HONORING WESTWOOD FIRE COMPANY EMS

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Westwood Fire Company EMS in recognition of their dedicated service to the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Westwood Fire Company EMS was recently awarded the 2005 Pennsylvania State Ambulance Service of the Year Award. This

prestigious award is given each year to an ambulance service that provides outstanding service to the residents and continued training and development for its community volunteers.

Founded in 1947, the Westwood Fire Company EMS provides fire, rescue, and EMS services to their local surrounding areas with competence and expertise. In the beginning, the Company had 13 original members. Today, they have expanded their numbers significantly with over 35 active firefighters, EMS personnel, and Fire Police officers.

The Westwood Fire Company EMT provides primary service to the Township of Valley and portions of East Fallowfield and Highland Townships. In these areas, the Company operates two pumpers, a pumper rescue, a brush unit, a traffic control unit, and a BLS ambulance. The Company responds to approximately 700 EMS calls per year and 350-fire/rescue calls. Moreover, the Company further contributes to its community by providing automated external defibrillators at discounted prices for schools and community organizations. Additionally, in an effort to educate the community and keep themselves up to date on the latest rescue techniques, the Company frequently provides weekly training drills.

The services provided by the Westwood Fire Company EMS are free of charge and the Company depends solely on the countless volunteers who spend time away from their families so that they can help others in their community. In turn, the community frequently gives back to the Company by providing them with financial assistance that is used to help purchase supplies, apparatus, and essential equipment. This selfless attitude has helped the Company grow and prosper over the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Westwood Fire Company EMS for its recognition as the 2005 Pennsylvania Ambulance Service of the Year and for the invaluable service they provide to their fellow citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

#### MAC COLMENERO: WINNER OF THE 2005 JOHNS FELLOWSHIP AWARD

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor—Macario Colmenero.

"Mac" was born just south of downtown San Diego in Barrio Logan, formerly known as Logan Heights, to Ben and Guadalupe Colmenero. As a child, he helped out in his father's meat and grocery store at the corner of National and Sigsbee Streets. He also sold newspapers for the Tribune Sun and later delivered other newspapers in town.

Mac attended Our Lady of Guadalupe School and was a graduate of their first class in June of 1950. He attended high school at Saint Augustine but left before graduating to join the Navy in 1952.

After his tour of duty, he found a job at Harbor Box Company which manufactured wooden boxes and crates for tomatoes grown in Chula Vista. His starting wage was a \$1.25 an hour with no benefits.

In 1956, he worked for T. Claude Ryan and Rohr Aircraft Co. In 1957, he enrolled in the

Cement Finisher Apprenticeship Program with Cement Masons Local #744 at the old Craftsmen Hall on Centre Street. Construction work was slow in San Diego, so he went to work for a Custom Auto repair shop for a short time. In August 1959, Mac went to work for Benton Roofing Co. as a roofer loader, then as a roofer for Veteran's Roof Co. He then advanced to journeyman, foreman and superintendent with Witherow Roofing Co.

In 1978, he was elected as a delegate to the Roofers International Convention in Miami. In December of that year, he was elected to the office of Business Agent of Roofers Local #45 where he served also as the Apprentice Coordinator and Secretary of the JATC. He held this office for three terms, a total of nine years. In 1986, due to the finances of the local, the position of business agent was eliminated and he was voted in as president, a non-paying position.

In 1987, he obtained a C-39 Roofing Contractor's license and signed an agreement with Local #45. In 1993, he was unanimously voted to the office of Business Manager, where he also serves as the Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Agent, Organizer, Apprentice Coordinator, Chairman of the Apprenticeship JATC, and Apprentice classroom instructor.

Mac also serves as a trustee to the Roofers Trust and is one of the directors at the National City Parks Apartments. Mac re-joined the "Johns" in 1993 and plans to be a lifetime member. After serving 12 years in Roofers Local #45 as Business Manager, Mac plans to retire in December of this year, but will continue to assist with the Apprenticeship Program.

Mac has been married to his wife Karen for 31 years and they have lived in North Park since 1974.

I am proud to salute Mac Colmenero on his recognition with the Johns Fellowship Award!

#### HONORING MARGARET DAVIES

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Margaret Davies. On September 11, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Margaret, as she celebrates her 90th birthday.

Margaret Rowe was born on September 13, 1915 in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she attended Little Rock Public Schools. She later moved to my hometown of Flint, MI, where she married Jay B. Davies in 1946. Margaret and her husband Jay had two children, Jimmy Davies, currently of Durham, NC, and Kim Smith of Indianapolis, IN. Mr. and Mrs. Davies were also blessed with three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The two enjoyed a marriage of 33 years, until Jay's passing in 1979.

Margaret has been a longtime resident of Genesee County. She worked for many years at the YMCA until retiring in 1983, and was an active member of Holbrook Avenue Church of God. Today she can often be found reading her Bible or sending e-mails to her loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my col-

leagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Margaret Davies for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

#### ON CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that my thoughts, prayers, and condolences continue to go out to all of the victims and citizens whose lives have been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

And I must also commend the efforts of communities across this great Nation, for opening their hearts and homes to the victims of this tragedy.

In my district, the Beattie Road Church of Christ, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base, Fort Benning, Norman Park Assembly, the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross and the many others who are too numerous to mention, but who have opened their hearts, homes and wallets to help the nearly 800 victims of Katrina who are now foster residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, should be recognized as well.

Two weeks ago, I do not think any of us could have imagined using the word "diaspora" to describe the lives of American citizens. But that is the situation that we are now faced with.

We are all too familiar with the horrific images coming from the Gulf Coast: images of our own people suffering, images that I know will always haunt me as I am sure that they will haunt you.

I also know that we are all too familiar with the accusations and mistakes that have been made at FEMA and at other levels of government. These are legitimate accusations that deserve an investigation.

In the end, however, it is what we do now that matters. That is why I am standing here today because I believe that we are still mismanaging this crisis, particularly the resources and assistance being provided evacuees as they disperse throughout the United States.

Just yesterday, my staff received several calls from the families of evacuees who have been relocated to the State of Georgia, whose needs are not being fully addressed by FEMA.

We have been told of several cases where evacuees, who are lucky enough to get a FEMA debit card, quickly learn that it has yet to be activated or simply doesn't work.

We continue to hear that it is very difficult and almost impossible to reach FEMA by phone, despite FEMA's ongoing and specific request that evacuees contact the agency by phone or e-mail. I question where these evacuees are going to get computer access, just as I know their access to telephones is limited.

But even more horrific are the stories of evacuees, panhandling, without clothes, without shoes, without any place to turn.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the America I know. FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security must be held accountable and, they must be held accountable today, not tomor-

row, not next week, not next month, but today and each and every day in the future, until the victims of the Katrina Diaspora are allowed to return home or are appropriately resettled in a community of their choosing.

Just as all persons of Jewish decent have a right to return to their homeland in Israel, we must ensure that all victims of the Katrina Diaspora be given the right and opportunity to return to their homes.

Finally, I applaud the leadership on both sides of the aisle for taking this matter up today.

I do not care about sound bites or political advantage here. Those concerns do not help the millions of Americans who have been robbed of everything.

What I am concerned with and what all of us across the Nation should be concerned with, is how we move forward in an effective and responsive fashion.

Are we correcting our administrative mistakes and missteps on a daily basis?

Are we taking care of our citizens?

This is the time to pull together, not apart. This is the time to work together, to share ideas and to use our collective wisdom and energy to get the job done. Even if this means admitting that we have made mistakes.

We must be clear that this is just a down payment on meeting the costs of this disaster. There is a long road ahead. And it is my hope that what we are doing here today provides the short term relief that is so desperately needed by the victims of Katrina.

Only time will tell if we are adequately meeting the needs of the victims of this awful tragedy.

#### SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3673, the second emergency supplemental bill for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We, in North Carolina, are very familiar with the destructive power of hurricanes, and Congress has a solemn responsibility to assist the efforts for relief, recovery and reconstruction.

Congress also has a serious responsibility to assure accountability in the use of taxpayer money, and the legislative branch must not fail in its constitutional duty to oversee the operations of the executive branch. There can be no doubt that the Federal agencies charged with responding to this disaster were too slow, too confused and too ineffectual in discharging their duties in the critical early hours and days of Hurricane Katrina. Congress must take effective action to ensure that the funds appropriated today will assist those who have suffered so egregiously through no fault of their own.

This tragedy has raised urgent questions about the performance of disaster preparedness and emergency response agencies. Congress must work in bipartisan cooperation to correct these deficiencies. As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security continues to work to protect our country during the war against terrorism and in the midst of a very active hurricane season, America cannot afford a failure

by Congress to fix the problems Hurricane Katrina has exposed.

H.R. 3673—SECOND EMERGENCY  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern with the situation still being faced by families devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

As needed relief is finally making its way down to the affected region, our thoughts go out to all the victims and their families. Late last week, this body passed a \$10.5 billion aid package that will provide initial funding for immediate and long-term responses. Today, we are passing an additional \$51.8 billion. This funding will cover only a sliver of the final financial toll taken on communities throughout the Gulf Coast and what will be needed for families to re-start their lives. Yet this monetary cost pales in comparison to the immense emotional and human cost that continues to grow.

At the end of the day, the United States government is constitutionally obligated to “insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, [and] promote the general welfare” for all citizens. Particularly during a time of crisis, it is absolutely necessary that these obligations be fulfilled. In that regard, the federal government has failed. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina last week, thousands of families, stranded, injured, homeless, and without basic necessities of water and food waited and waited and waited for emergency relief. For four days, the President, Congress, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) minimized to themselves and to the public the immensity of what was occurring. The very institutions established to serve and protect the American people instead watched and waited as the tragedy grew.

The response of the government to the needs of these communities was demonstrably and woefully inadequate. I am pleased that an investigation has been launched to discover why the government agencies entrusted with providing emergency aid failed to respond in any meaningful way to the grave situation. Ultimately, we must determine what changes need to be made in order to ensure that future relief efforts are not hindered by incompetent management or bureaucratic obstructions, as they were last week. However, we will only find true accountability with a bipartisan, independent commission to investigate what went wrong.

Natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina can never be prevented, no matter how well prepared we may be. However, shifting natural conditions on the planet indicate that we may soon be seeing an increase in such events. In early August 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) released a report stating that environmental conditions guaranteed an increase in destructive and powerful hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Already this year we have seen an increase in hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Such a warning has been voiced for some time, and we are now seeing the results if we continue to

ignore such information. Additionally, the New Orleans Times-Picayune predicted this very disaster as recently as 2002. President Bush’s assertion that “no one could have predicted” this disaster is clearly, and tragically, wrong.

Through the generosity of millions of Americans, those families affected by the hurricane are receiving some of the help they need, and I have absolutely no doubt that they will prevail in rebuilding their lives and their community. We must pledge to do all we can to help.

As we proceed with the long-term solutions, we need to make sure we do the right thing here in Congress. It is our job to make choices and these choices reflect our priorities. I hope the majority will acknowledge that many of the choices made in recent years were ill-advised. Together, we need to put the financial resources to work to improve the lives of survivors. It is not the time for business-as-usual, cut-taxes-at-all-costs, short-change-the-working-poor proposals we have come to expect from the majority. We can do better, and we must.

H.R. 3673—SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATION

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in less than a week, we will have passed supplementals providing over \$60 billion in emergency aid to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. We have been told we are spending about \$2 billion a day in hurricane response efforts. We all want to care for those who have suffered damaged homes and those who have been left homeless, many with literally only the shirts on their backs, by this terrible storm. I realize many face an uncertain future with unemployment gone and only questions remaining.

At the same time, \$60 billion spent over 6 weeks creates an opportunity for waste and unwise spending decisions. I want the funds to go to those who need it and those who have and continue to suffer. But we also owe it to our constituents—and indeed perhaps even more to Katrina’s victims—that these funds be spent based on careful consideration of what is needed and what is the best and most effective—and cost effective—method for achieving our goals.

Chairman LEWIS has stressed the accountability provisions included in the bill. The Inspector General of the Homeland Security Department will be monitoring the expenditure of these funds. The Appropriations Committee will receive weekly reports on how the funds are allocated.

We all want to respond to this disaster in the most compassionate way possible. But we also have an obligation as elected officials to ensure that funds we spend are carefully considered, used for true critical and emergency functions, and spent wisely.

Once all are out of harms way with immediate needs met, I hope that we will slow down and move forward in a deliberative way as we consider continued response and, most importantly, long-term plans for rebuilding the Gulf Coast. We will be held accountable, as we should be, for the investment of the funds.

While the American people want us to be generous, there are many hard decisions ahead. It is incumbent on all of us in the Congress to ensure that we invest our taxpayer dollars in the most responsible way.

SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLE-  
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of the Gulf Coast and their loved ones who have been so profoundly affected by Hurricane Katrina. My deepest gratitude goes out to all those engaged in relief efforts.

Our nation is grieving. The images and stories broadcast from flooded streets and makeshift shelters will be forever engraved in our minds and hearts. Hurricane Katrina has collectively wounded us. But, out of this anguish, an intense commitment has emerged—to stand alongside the brave survivors during this time of recovery.

While Katrina’s historic rampage of the Gulf Coast can be measured in hours, recovery will likely be recorded in terms of years and billions of dollars. Last week, Congress provided a “down payment” of \$10.5 billion. We are here today to approve a \$51.8 billion disaster relief package to aid further recovery efforts. All support—given recent events—carry grave concerns about how money will flow to those suffering from this natural and man-made disaster.

Like many, I am alarmed over apparent delays, and lack of communication and coordination. But, these frustrations cannot distract us from the work ahead of us. Our priorities are clear: Focus on Katrina’s survivors, first.

Many of the survivors have lost loved ones, are homeless, and face the terrifying prospect of starting their lives over. Nevertheless, they have demonstrated a remarkable resiliency in a desire to move forward and need support to do so.

Families have been separated, and must be reunited.

The injured and sick need care and treatment, including a wide array of mental health services.

My office has been in direct contact with local disaster response officials to ensure that San Diego’s available resources are aiding those suffering in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Members of San Diego’s Urban Search-and-Rescue Taskforce have left for the Gulf Coast to provide assistance, as well as a variety of first responders and military personnel.

After we have seen to the needs of those hurt by Katrina, let’s look at the broader picture. There must be a thorough and independent review of the response effort in the coming days. We need to answer the serious questions and concerns Hurricane Katrina raised about emergency planning. Namely, we need to address the care and evacuation for the vulnerable in our communities when emergencies arise.

On a personal note—based on my volunteer experience with the Red Cross after Katrina’s landfall—we need to develop an efficient

method of tracking missing family members and reuniting them with their loved ones. I spoke to people who were desperate to learn the whereabouts of their loved ones. The pain in their voices was evident and made worse by the scarcity of available information. A number of websites, registries and other electronic bulletins have sprung up in response. CNN and other cable channels have taken on this challenge. Children are going before the cameras seeking relatives. What is the federal responsibility to ensure a comprehensive emergency database for such catastrophes?

We need to reevaluate existing emergency management practices and policies. What are the skill sets needed to assure those in charge are able to properly and aggressively manage a widespread emergency? How much can we realistically rely on the military? Can and should those capabilities be developed to a greater extent in the civilian population? Do we overextend and over depend on local responders who—by virtue of being personally affected by a cataclysmic event—are unable to provide their talents when needed?

We can, we must, and we will do everything possible to make sure our lack of preparedness and slow response to this catastrophic on-going tragedy never happens again.

#### REGARDING THE \$10.5 BILLION AID PACKAGE FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

#### HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, "Four years ago this month, the City I represent fell victim to a major disaster now infamously known as 9/11. When that happened we received the world's sympathy and we expected and received the support of the federal government to help us rebuild. Last December, the world came to the aid of Southeast Asian nations when the Indian Ocean leapt upon the shores of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other coastal nations. The world responded and the U.S. Federal government stepped up to the plate.

Once again, disaster has struck, this time in the form of hurricane Katrina. Again, thousands of people will have lost their lives and ten times that have lost their homes and livelihood. The world is offering its sympathy and support and Congress is meeting its responsibility by providing the Federal Government with \$10.5 billion in initial emergency aid. Certainly more will be needed, and more will be provided.

Additionally, I urge my fellow members of Congress to work with their local communities on neighborhood efforts to provide support for the relief efforts. As Americans we have many differences amongst us. Differences in race, religion and political ideologies to name a few. However, we have two commonalities that supercede those differences—we are all Americans and we are all human beings. As it was four years ago in my City of New York, it is today in our Gulf region. Let us respond today as we did then with overwhelming compassion and support for fellow members of our American-human family".

#### SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, rescue personnel from across the country are continuing the relief effort while ordinary citizens in cities throughout America are volunteering and giving. They are taking in those who have lost everything. Heroism is winning out. And the funding in this underlying bill will help ensure that it continues to.

But as we work to get this relief effort right, Congress should recognize how we got to this point. That starts with understanding what this Administration has done to FEMA.

Last year, former director of FEMA James Lee Witt told us, and I quote—"Scientists tell us that we are going to be seeing more catastrophic natural disaster events in the 21st Century than we've ever seen. . . And yet we have destroyed the one agency that not only responds to those events, but also works with state and local governments to do pre-disaster mitigation prevention before that risk could ever happen, to minimize that risk."

As long as our nation gazes upon the devastation in this once-vibrant city of New Orleans, it will remain a symbol of this Administration's misplaced priorities—its misplaced values. The Obey Amendment would have gone a long way toward restoring FEMA to the efficient, non-political agency it was during emergencies like the Oklahoma City bombings in the 1990's. In doing so, we would ensure that never again in the face of a national disaster will the Federal government and the agency responsible for emergency relief fail to act or fail to lead. We owe the victims of Katrina and the heroes of this rescue effort nothing less.

#### BEATRICE AVINA: WINNER OF THE 2005 JOHNS RETIREE OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, by the time Bea began her career in 1984 with the AFL-CIO Community Services Department with United Way of San Diego County, she had already learned that families have special needs due to unexpected events and circumstances. Those things she learned while she was a member of UFIWU and Seafarers International.

Addressing those special needs gave her an advantage when chairing the Federal Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program, Catholic Charities' SDG&E Utilities Program, and working in cooperation with the San Diego Food Bank. Under her leadership, the Adopt a Family Program and the Toy & Holiday Food Drive were developed and still continue to be a success.

Bea Avina has always been dedicated to bringing her fellow brothers and sisters social and economic justice. She is a prime example of a person who always puts her neighbor's needs first.

Since retiring in December 2003, Bea has not sat idle. She currently volunteers approximately four to six days a month as a Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) for the San Diego Police Department and remains energetic in church and family activities.

I am proud to salute Bea Avina on her recognition as the Johns Retiree of the Year.

#### HONORING MASTER SERGEANT TROY A. STEWART

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of an American hero, Master Sergeant Troy A. Stewart of Essexville, MI, which is in my district. On September 10, the United States Marine Corps will join family and friends to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Stewart, as he retires from active service after 20 dedicated years.

Troy Stewart was born August 29, 1966, in my hometown of Flint, MI. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 27, 1985, and was assigned to 29 Palms CA for Communications Center School, where he graduated as the Academic Honor Graduate. By August 1986, Private First Class Stewart was promoted to Lance Corporal, and reported to Marine Wing Communications Squadron-28, Marine Air Control Group-28, 2nd Marine Air Wing in Cherry Point, NC, where he worked as a Field Message Center Operator. Two years later, Corporal Stewart reported for duty as the Divisions Enlisted Assignments Non-Commissioned Officer at Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, in Okinawa, Japan.

In 1989, Corporal Stewart returned to the United States, stationed first at Camp Lejeune, NC, and later back at Cherry Point, where he also attended Non-Commissioned Officers School. Corporal Stewart graduated a few days before the rest of his class, due to his deployment as a Top Secret Courier with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Operation Ahaus Tara in Honduras. Corporal Stewart returned again after that mission, and served as SORTS Non-Commissioned Officer, Platoon Sergeant, and the Squadron's Training Non-Commissioned Officer.

From 1990 through 1993, Sergeant Stewart attended Communications Systems Chief School as well as Drill Instructors School. In July 1995, he received a Meritorious Promotion to Staff Sergeant. Following his Drill Instructor duty, he reported to Quantico, VA, where he completed Air Crew School and operated as a Marine One Communicator. In January 2002, Master Sergeant Stewart assumed the duties as the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the Recruiting Sub-Station in Saginaw, MI, the position he holds to this day.

I would also like to acknowledge Master Sergeant Stewart's wonderful family: his wife, Corporal Kimberly Stewart, and their daughters, Desirée and Tory.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge the life and career of Master Sergeant Troy Stewart. He has served his country with dignity and honor, and has been recognized



many times with personnel awards including Navy and Marine Corps Commendations Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Presidential Service Badge, and six Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals. For 20 years, he has helped make our country a safer place in which to live. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating him, and wishing him well in his retirement as well as all his future endeavors.

#### HURRICANE KATRINA

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my deepest condolences to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, who lost their lives, their homes, their communities, and their livelihoods. My thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

I have been very disappointed in what appears to have been a slow federal response to this disaster. In addition, many appeared to have ignored warnings over the years about the potential vulnerabilities and the steps that could be taken to prepare for this situation.

It is my hope that we can come together on a bipartisan basis and work to review and assess the adequacy of the early federal, state, and local preparedness. We must also continue to focus on providing immediate assistance to those in need. I am pleased that the Congress convened on an emergency basis to provide more than 10 billion dollars for disaster relief efforts and trust we are providing an additional \$52 billion today. In addition, I have been working with federal, state, and local officials to ensure that Maryland does everything it can to support the relief efforts. The State of Maryland has dispatched members of its National Guard and Montgomery County has dispatched search and rescue squad personnel. Other local governments are actively exploring ways that they can help. I am especially proud of the people throughout our community and country's outpouring of support for those whose lives have been shattered by Hurricane Katrina. They have opened their arms, their homes, and their pocketbooks.

Mr. Speaker, while the enormity of this tragedy is overwhelming, I am confident that a spirit of determination and generosity will ensure that we will rebuild and endure. Our strength as a nation will be evident in the days to come as communities throughout our country unite to provide assistance to those in need.

#### ON PASSAGE OF H.R. 3673

### HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Management, Finance, and Accountability, I rise today to express my concern for the victims and to emphasize the importance of ensuring that every dollar allocated to this relief effort gets to its intended recipient. As we

pass this important relief measure, let me assure all Americans that we stand ready, willing, and able to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As we prepare to provide the appropriate and necessary assistance to ensure our citizens can rebuild their lives, we must administer these Disaster Assistance funds responsibly.

Over the past two years, my Subcommittee has held three hearings on management at the Department of Homeland Security. While not always the most exciting topic, it is strong, sound management that will enable us to get through a crisis of this magnitude. Last year, in the aftermath of the Florida hurricanes, FEMA administered grants through the Individuals and Households Program. Just as we seek to do today, these grants were intended to provide emergency relief to those most impacted. Unfortunately, according to a report by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (Audit of FEMA's Individuals and Households Program in Miami-Dade County, Florida, for Hurricane Frances, OIG-05-20), there were numerous documented instances of improper payments.

The assistance that we are providing to the victims of Hurricane Katrina is too important to be misspent. The Federal government has a responsibility to ensure the proper and effective distribution of aid. Any dollar lost to fraud or mismanagement is a dollar that does not make it to someone who is in need.

With the passage of the Stafford Act (Public Law 93-288) and its subsequent amendments, the Congress put in place specific requirements for the effective allocation of disaster funds. This statutory framework is designed to protect these resources from those who would seek to gain at the expense of the victims of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. With sound management, appropriate controls and accountability, we will have the means to continue to provide resources to those who are truly in need of assistance.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HURRICANE KATRINA

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of these supplemental appropriations for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

As someone who helped rebuild my city, New York City, after the terror attacks of 9/11 and as someone who lost over 110 constituents, countless friends and my first cousin to the horrors of the World Trade Center, I know the pain and suffering the people of the Gulf Coast are feeling and their despair.

When America hurts, America helps.

The damage of Hurricane Katrina is much greater than the physical destruction that was left in its wake. And it is much more than the psychological trauma that has affected these survivors who are now displaced. The damage is so great, and the lack of response from our Federal Government in the immediate days after this storm was so small, that it begs for this Congress to demand answers.

Why was the agency that is responsible for our emergency response, FEMA, so woefully under-prepared and under-funded?

Why did the director of FEMA have no emergency management experience?

Why was funding for the Army Corps of Engineers designated to protect the City of New Orleans from a dangerous flood of this level, diverted to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans?

These questions demand answers.

Last week we saw many shocking images of poverty and economic disparities among us. Like many parts of many cities in this country, the tourist trodden French Quarter with fancy hotels and restaurants are worlds away from the reality for the people who work in them. One third of the city of New Orleans lived below the poverty line, and these people, mostly African American, were the ones who were most impacted by this storm and the mismanagement of the Federal response.

We also saw positive images of Americans helping Americans in need. We saw a young six year old boy; lead his siblings to safety and to be re-united with his family. We saw neighbors help out other neighbors to get them to safety, and we saw the National Guard many fresh off duty in Iraq, put on their boots and wade into the water to save lives.

This money today will provide an immediate infusion of cash to provide healthcare for displaced people, emergency housing vouchers for people without a home, emergency unemployment insurance for people now without a job, and money for debris removal and systems to provide clean water to the city of New Orleans.

This money partners with the amazing response of the American people and the world community to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Constituents throughout my district have volunteered their time, contributions and money to help the people of the Gulf remembering how these same people helped us after 9/11. When America hurts, America helps and the remarkable sacrifice and contributions of so many people who have opened up their wallets and homes to these victims is what makes our country so great.

Today's support is a strong step, but it not the last step. The last time this many people were displaced was during the Civil War. This Congress must get back to work in a bipartisan manner, and address the needs both immediate and future, of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. And we should not adjourn or recess until we do so. Tax-cuts, estate tax repeal, plans to privatize Social Security, should all take a back burner, while these people suffer.

We must work to bring the full Federal resources of this government to help these people get back into their homes and quickly as possible, and to rebuild their lives.

We must use this tragedy as an opportunity to improve the quality of life for these residents of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. For one-third of the people of the city of New Orleans to be living in poverty, sub-standard housing with poor healthcare, is inexcusable in this the richest country in the world. We must raise living standards through job training, better schools and stronger neighborhoods and eradicate the hopeless conditions so many Americans live in not only in the Gulf region but throughout our Nation. Let us use this terrible storm to learn a lesson and commit us to a new war on poverty that will truly bring Americans who are living in 19th Century poverty into the 21st Century through better housing, healthcare and education.



And we must use this as an opportunity to find out what went wrong, how our government whose responsibility is protecting its citizens, failed so miserably in the Gulf Region and how we can prevent this tragedy again. I call for an independent Commission, bipartisan with the full authority of the 9/11 Commission to get to the bottom of this, and recommend to the Congress the changes that will be necessary to protect American lives in the future.

#### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. LOWEY. I rise today in support of this legislation, a down payment toward fulfilling our obligation to help the citizens and cities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The tragedy of Katrina has exposed some difficult truths of American life. That the richest Nation on earth is just as vulnerable to the laws of nature as the poorest. That the haves are not only poorer than the have-nots—they are also less safe.

The tragedy has also brought into sharp focus the debate about the role of government in citizens' lives. It has exposed the fallacy advanced by the leadership of this Congress and the administration that government is the problem, and it can't ever be the solution.

I believe that government should work with the private sector to help people help themselves to achieve their goals. Government should be a partner in making the lives of Americans better.

Unfortunately, too often, on the floor of this chamber, we've heard from Members who bemoan the size of the government and blast programs to help vulnerable populations, even as they tout legislation providing billions in Federal resources to the most powerful and connected companies and individuals in this country. They have been allowed to snip away at the web of structures put in place to help the American people.

Katrina was the deluge that exposed what we have warned of all along—when you starve the government, it fails those who need it most.

In times of crisis and in times of need, the people expect—and should expect—that their government will stand with them. American taxpayers deserve strong, competent leaders who jump into action, rather than ignore crisis and delay response. Who take responsibility, not rush to point fingers. Who understand that government is necessary and can be a force for good.

Last week, the U.S. Government failed its people. This legislation is merely one step toward repairing this breach of basic trust, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### STATEMENT ON THE SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in this time of national tragedy, the merits of this bill are obvious. The American people are generous and insist that we offer aid and assistance to Hurricane Katrina's survivors.

The confidence of our nation was shaken by the slowness and shortcomings of the federal government's response to this massive human tragedy.

While this Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Katrina Response provides an additional \$51.8 billion for hurricane relief, much more will need to be done.

Congress must ensure that the victims, and the state, local, federal and private agencies that are trying to care for them, have the resources they need.

However, it is not enough to just vote for large funding bills. Americans also want accountability on the over \$60 billion we have appropriated so far for Hurricane Katrina relief.

We have to make sure that the relief money we are appropriating today and in the future actually gets to the victims, and is not used on unscrupulous contractors or spent on projects that boost the profits of companies seeking to profit at the expense of the hurricane victims and the taxpayers. This was the case in Iraq, where hundreds of millions of dollars were either "lost" or improperly paid to contractors like Halliburton.

To make sure that the \$2 billion that FEMA is now spending every day is properly used, I believe that, even as we appropriate billions for hurricane relief, we also provide additional resources to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to help ensure that the additional tens of billions of dollars that will be necessary to care for our fellow Americans and rebuild the South are not wasted through fraud, abuse, overpayments or ineffective government management.

We have many good reasons for concern about wasteful spending. In the 3 years since the Department of Homeland Security, the umbrella department that houses FEMA, was created, numerous reports by the Congress, the Department's Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office have detailed instance after instance of contracting deficiencies, fraud, wasteful or lavish spending, lax oversight and management, procurement shortcomings, blurred lines of responsibility and lack of accountability.

I believe that this Congress must make sure, to the greatest extent possible, that the funds that we are appropriating today and in the coming months to help the Hurricane Katrina victims are directed squarely at helping the victims and not those who seek to profit at the expense of the victims who desperately need the help. This is more than just a business opportunity for the Administration's friends. It is an opportunity to do the right thing and help those who are suffering, and it is our obligation.

I also want to express my disappointment in the bicameral review committee created by the

Republican Majority to examine the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina. This committee, simply put, will be toothless.

#### HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with persons across this great nation and this world to express my condolences for those who have suffered as a result of Hurricane Katrina. I also want to commend all those people who have worked hard to lift up their fellow man during this time of crisis.

This disaster is one unlike anything we've ever seen before. At one point 80 percent of the city of New Orleans was under water. Up to 1 million families have been displaced. There are estimates that 400,000 to 500,000 people could lose their jobs because of the hurricane. And despite the magnitude of these numbers, they still don't do justice to the human suffering we have seen on television and in person.

But out of every tragedy comes the opportunity for each and every person to show his or her humanity through acts of compassion. That is why I am so proud of my fellow Texans and my fellow Houstonians. From Governor Rick Perry, Mayor Bill White, and Judge Robert Eckels on down, everyone has come together to make sure that we do everything in our power to help the quarter of a million evacuees we have taken in. In the Houston area alone, we have taken in over 100,000 of our neighbors to the east, 15,000 of which were sheltered in the Astrodome, which is in my Congressional District.

Several organizations in the Houston area are leading the disaster relief effort. Some of the help is coming from volunteers with Operation Compassion, a massive relief effort led by Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and spearheaded by the Second Baptist Church. The thousands of volunteers from 131 local congregations have assumed primary responsibility for feeding the masses of storm victims who have taken refuge there. I commend them and others for extending their good will towards others.

As we in Congress look towards our next steps, we must ensure that our top priority remains caring for those who have lost loved ones, lost their homes, and lost their means of providing for their families. They have, through no fault of their own, become the least, the last, and the lost of our society. It is our responsibility to help them back on their feet. To do so they will need food stamp assistance and access to Medicaid. They will need temporary emergency housing and the federal assistance to help them rebuild their homes and their lives.

We have taken important first steps by passing a \$10.5 billion disaster relief bill last Friday, followed by an additional \$51.8 billion for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security today. But these are only the first in a long series of actions that we will need to try to repair the physical damage caused by Hurricane Katrina as well as the lives of those affected by the hurricane. I ask that all of my distinguished colleagues and the

people of this nation join in the effort to help rebuild and sustain the lives of the Hurricane Katrina victims.

CONCERNING THE DEVASTATION  
AND FEDERAL RESPONSE TO  
HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we consider four realities about our nation's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Allow me first to commend all of the Americans who have responded so nobly. They have demonstrated the best of our shared humanity.

That brings me to a second, less-praiseworthy reality. Poverty, age and skin color—in that order—have been major factors in this life-or-death equation for the vast majority of the victims. That is a fact, not an opinion—a fact that we must address as a nation.

As Americans, we are all in this life together—especially during times of imminent danger and emergency. And the policies and actions of our Federal Government should reflect this reality.

Third, as we respond to this disaster—and as we prepare for the dangers that the future will surely bring to our country—we cannot eliminate the reality of widespread (and growing) poverty on the Gulf Coast and throughout this country. And we must not act as if what we do here in Washington has no impact upon that deprivation. The Census Bureau just reported that for the fourth straight year, the number of Americans falling into poverty has increased. Thirty-seven million Americans now live in poverty, including 13 million children.

Not surprisingly, those who were already most vulnerable were the largest group of Americans left stranded, unable to escape the storm or the flood that followed.

The poor, the sick, the weak, the vulnerable—so often after-thoughts in today's Federal budget decisions—were left behind again. We must care for them and help those who survived to reclaim their lives.

That means, in the first instance, that we must not further penalize those who have suffered so much.

For those who were living in the Gulf Coast disaster area, we should: (1) Stop the clock on Federal time limits for all income related benefits (including those related to TANF, food stamps, and Federal Unemployment Insurance benefits); (2) Suspend the work requirements for TANF and the requirement that those who receive unemployment insurance continue to look for work; (3) We should extend Medicaid eligibility to CHIP parents for 12 months; and (4) The Federal Government should cover all the costs for these programs, relieving the hard-hit states of this burden.

In addition, we should do everything within our power to employ the people who have lost their jobs and homes as a result of this disaster in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Government and the private sector should begin immediately to retrain and hire these Americans to participate in the rebuilding of their communities.

We should make sure they are mentally ready to begin rebuilding by offering coun-

seling services, similar to those offered after 9-11. With skills, job and counseling where necessary, they will be able to become home owners and re-establish the foundation of their communities.

Finally, we also must face and overcome another reality. Federal budget choices (misguided choices, in my view) have seriously weakened the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the federal agency that is supposed to be our safety net of last resort when disaster strikes.

The media has been accurate in reporting how decisions by the Administration and the leaders of this Congress to cut funding to the Army Corps of Engineers and the FEMA disaster prevention programs have weakened our ability to respond effectively.

Choices made in Washington have resulted in deaths in New Orleans. The President and this Congress must account for the shortcomings in the Federal disaster effort for which we are responsible—and work together to do a better job in the future.

As I close, allow me to say that I remain optimistic. I am optimistic that we will find a way to organize FEMA in a way that allows it to respond effectively—maximizing the saving of lives.

I am optimistic that this Congress will come up with a viable plan to try to make these victims and evacuees whole again—partisanship aside.

I believe that the American people are up to this test—that we truly can rise to overcome almost any hardship that is thrust upon us.

Any of us—and our families—could well be facing the same hardships, the same pain, the same loss of home and job and dignity that the survivors of Hurricane Katrina must now overcome.

These are our people, my friends, and this is our country. We have it within our power to rise from the hesitancy and failure of past days and rebuild. We shall rebuild New Orleans. We shall rebuild the Gulf Coast. And we shall rebuild our self-confidence as a great Nation and a great people.

COMMEMORATING THE SESQUI-  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF  
ARCADIA, WISCONSIN

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Sesquicentennial celebration of Arcadia, one of Wisconsin's many treasures. Named after the Arkadha Mountains in Greece, Arcadia boasts an historic downtown in the midst of some of the most beautiful farmland and countryside in western Wisconsin.

It is fitting that I join with the 2,400 residents of Arcadia to celebrate the town's founding, because this truly is a town that has not forgotten where it came from. Perhaps Arcadia's most storied attraction is its Memorial Park. The park's 54 acres display monuments and tributes to the town's history, our nation's wars and conflicts, and those men and women who fought and died in them. The walkway through the park is measured so that each meter represents one year, so visitors complete their own guided tour of history. Joining the statues,

plaques, and monuments are some of the real instruments of war: a tank, a Howitzer artillery gun, and an F-16 fighter jet. The dedication shown in procuring these artifacts and the endless care that go into maintaining the grounds demonstrate that the spirit of America runs through Arcadia.

Apart from Memorial Park, Arcadia exemplifies the quality of life available to those who call rural America home. The Trempealeau River, which flows to the Mississippi, offers opportunities for fishing and canoeing, eagle-watching is popular year-round, and stock car races are held every Friday in the warmer months at the Fox Ridge Speedway. The town also hosts the Arcadia Broiler Dairy Days celebration over Memorial Day Weekend, which includes the 62-mile Memorial Bike Tour. This vibrant community truly is a model for rural areas across the state of Wisconsin and America, proving that a city doesn't have to be big to be creative, exciting, and fun.

A giant corn maze in town already announces the sesquicentennial celebration, which will be held this Saturday, September 10, 2005. Arcadia will mark its first 150 years with such events as the dedication of a local firefighters memorial, a classic car rally, and the entombing of a time capsule to remind future generations of this great milestone. I congratulate the residents of Arcadia on their sesquicentennial, and I thank them for all they have contributed to the character and economy of western Wisconsin. I wish them continued happiness and prosperity in the next 150 years.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION OF  
THE HURRICANE KATRINA BANK-  
RUPTCY RELIEF AND COMMU-  
NITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today Rep. MEL WATT, Rep. JERROLD NADLER, Rep. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and twenty four additional original co-sponsors have joined me in introducing the "Hurricane Katrina Bankruptcy Relief and Community Protection Act of 2005", to protect the thousands of families and small businesses financially devastated by Hurricane Katrina from being penalized by anti-debtor provisions contained in a new bankruptcy law scheduled to take effect on October 17, 2005.

We are concerned that, just as survivors of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to rebuild their lives, the new bankruptcy law, effective October 17, 2005, will result in a further and unintended financial whammy.

Unfortunately, the new bankruptcy law will have the consequence of preventing thousands of devastated families from being able to obtain relief from the massive and unexpected financial obligations they are incurring. The inflexible bankruptcy law will force victims of Hurricane Katrina to repay debt with income they no longer have, file paper work with documents that no longer exist, and travel to courts that are possibly hundreds of miles away. It is simply absurd to place these obstacles between survivors and financial security.

When the Judiciary Committee considered the Bankruptcy Abuse and Consumer Protection Act earlier this year, Ms. JACKSON-LEE offered an amendment to protect the victims of

natural disaster like those now devastated by Hurricane Katrina. While the amendment was defeated on a party line vote without any debate, we hope that in light of recent events our colleagues will recognize the importance of protecting our most financially vulnerable Americans.

This bill will prevent new bankruptcy provisions from having adverse and unintended consequences for the hundreds of thousands now facing financial catastrophe by providing needed flexibility for victims of natural disasters in bankruptcy proceedings.

This common sense bill will insure that we do not compound a natural disaster with a man made financial disaster. I hope there will be bipartisan support for expedited consideration of this critical legislation.

HONORING THE MALAKOFF  
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Malakoff Rotary Club for their 66 years of service to Henderson County. Throughout its history, the Malakoff Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Malakoff Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local students and sponsored programs to improve area literacy. In addition, they have sponsored numerous activities with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs, Eustace Children's Home and the Henderson County Crisis Center.

Through these initiatives, the Malakoff Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies are with those families who are af-

fected by the worst natural disaster our country has ever seen. I also extend my gratitude to those first responders, members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Guard, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their aid and assistance in relief and recovery efforts.

Like the rest of America, I was extremely frustrated and angered with the lack of preparedness and timely response by the Federal Government. This was an instance where the system failed. Five days after the hurricane, thousands were still without food, shelter and clothing. We saw on television grueling pictures of our most needy: the poor, elderly, and children stranded in unbelievable conditions. Many Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike—even President Bush himself—have recognized that the initial federal response was “not acceptable”.

New Orleans is the only major American city below sea level, and it is wedged between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River. In the case of a bad hurricane hitting, experts have said for some time now, that the city could “fill up like a cereal bowl, killing tens of thousands and laying waste to the city’s architectural heritage.” Despite speculation that a disaster of this magnitude could occur in this region, the President’s recent budgets have actually proposed to reduce funding for flood prevention in the New Orleans area.

In June 2004, Walter Maestri, emergency management chief for Jefferson Parish, fretted to The Times-Picayune in New Orleans: “It appears that the money has been moved in the President’s budget to handle homeland security and the war in Iraq, and I suppose that’s the price we pay. Nobody locally is happy that the levees can’t be finished, and we are doing everything we can to make the case that this is a security issue for us.”

With hundreds of millions of dollars and 40 percent of our National Guard already dedicated to the War in Iraq, Katrina is a glaring example of the question of whether or not we are able to effectively handle problems that arise here at home.

While this is most certainly concerning, the important thing right now, is ensuring that the Federal Government is doing everything humanly possible to help the victims of this catastrophe. As this crisis continues, our first priority must be to provide those affected with basic human needs.

Looking to the days and weeks ahead, Congress also needs to investigate the lack of response of government and look into what hampered relief efforts at the most critical time. In this regard, particular focus should be placed on the organization of DHS and FEMA.

Again, it is clear that there was a lack of adequate preparedness and response. I had concerns during the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) about whether it was appropriate to fold this vital agency for national emergency preparedness into DHS, rather than leave it as an independent agency.

I voted against the inclusion of FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security back in 2002. My concerns in this instance may have been well founded, as FEMA’s initial response was lacking at best and failed to deliver urgently needed help.

I have joined with Congressman DINGELL to introduce legislation to remove FEMA from DHS so it will once again be an independent agency with cabinet-level status. The bill also

requires that the Director of FEMA be an emergency management professional, and creates two deputy directors—one responsible for natural disasters and the other responsible for terrorism related disasters with each required to have significant experience related to their positions.

While this legislation would be a start in addressing concerns of the American people about the handling of emergency situations, the fact remains that it is still the responsibility of the appropriate agencies to have comprehensive plans in place beforehand in order to avoid the situation we are currently finding ourselves in.

At this time, we don’t have all of the answers as to why relief and recovery efforts fell short. One thing we do know is this national tragedy in the Gulf States highlights the importance of the ability of our first responders to communicate in the event of a national emergency. Public safety, government and military leaders have all said that the inability of local, State, and Federal agencies to communicate was a major obstacle that made the crisis worse. As President Bush said after September 11th, the ability for first responders to communicate is critical in the hours after a crisis. Unfortunately, it has been 4 years since September 11th, and clearly we have made little progress in addressing our first responders’ communications needs. I call on Congress to make a real commitment to the public safety officers who are working so bravely and diligently to help the victims of this national disaster.

Finally, I was very pleased Congress acted quickly to pass the \$10.5 billion emergency supplemental bill. This is an important first step in the effort to provide direct relief. We are now hearing that the devastation this deadly storm has left in its path may cost upwards of \$40 billion. That is equal to the funding provided in the emergency supplemental bill passed after the September 11th terrorist attacks. Congress must provide whatever is necessary to help our Southern friends.

It is a travesty that here in America we have seen our own citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina suffer without the basic necessities required for survival, including food, water, clothing and shelter. However, communities across our country are coming together to help provide much needed assistance. The Mayor of Detroit, Michigan, has announced that Detroit will provide transportation to the Detroit region, temporary housing, food, and even open their schools and provide counseling for the victims. This is just one example of many across our Nation where the American people are pulling together and showing an outpouring of generosity and regard for humanity.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of those who have suffered throughout this tragedy. My colleagues and I in Congress must and will do whatever is in our power to assist the ongoing rescue and relief efforts.

ART CANTU: 2005 LABOR LEADER  
OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Art Cantu—

named the 2005 Labor Leader of the Year. Art is currently the Secretary-Treasurer and Principal Executive Officer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 36, which represents Building Material, Construction, Industrial, Professional and Technical Employees.

Art is a native San Diegan and graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1975. Art also attended San Diego City College where he completed the Business and Labor Studies Program.

Art began his career working at Nabisco Company for Teamsters Local 316 in Syracuse, New York in May of 1976. In December 1977, he transferred to Local 36 and began driving for Oberg Construction and later at Bechtel Power Corporation at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and then moved to Hubbard Construction Company. In January 1990, Art began working at Teamsters Local 36 as an Organizer and Business Agent, and in May of 1995 was elected as the Recording Secretary on the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 36. In August of 2000, Art was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. He has since been re-elected twice.

Art serves as co-chair for San Diego County Teamsters Construction Trust for Health and Welfare, Pension, Vacation and Training Trusts, as well as Alternate Trustee of the San Diego County Teamsters Employers-Insurance Trust Fund. Art currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Industrial Relations Research Association (IRRA), and the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council as well as being the Treasurer and Executive Board member of The San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council. His newest position is with the San Diego County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Sub-committee.

Art also serves as the Recording Secretary of the California Teamsters Hispanic Caucus and the Executive Director of the National Teamsters Hispanic Caucus. Art is extremely proud of organizing the Annual Teamsters Hispanic Golf Tournament held at Torrey Pines every year. The event has raised over \$300,000 in scholarships for the sons and daughters of Teamsters. Since 2000, Art and Kris Hartnett have co-chaired the John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet which has raised over \$1.2 million.

Art currently resides in Carmel Mountain Ranch in San Diego. Art has 2 sons, Art Jr., 26, and Wesley, 24. Art Jr. currently works in Seattle, Washington and is a software engineer for Marchex Corporation. Wes works for the City of Santa Monica in the Engineering Department. Art's proudest moment was seeing Art Jr. graduate from Berkeley and Stanford and Wes from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Art enjoys golf, tennis and traveling.

I am proud to salute Art Cantu—Labor Leader of the Year.

CONGRATULATING RABBI AMIEL  
WOHL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Amiel Wohl of New Rochelle

for being honored with the 2005 Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award.

The Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award is given annually to an individual who has sought to bring better understanding and harmonious relationships between various religious and ethnic groups. Rabbi Wohl has carried out this mission time and time again, including efforts to aid Christians suffering in Lebanon through his organization, People for Relief in Lebanon.

Rabbi Wohl has been committed to inter-faith communication since his arrival at Temple Israel of New Rochelle in 1973. Almost immediately, he coordinated the Interreligious Council, which brought together Catholic, Protestant and Jewish houses of worship and religious organizations. He has also been instrumental in other groups dedicated to inter-faith communication, including the Westchester Jewish Conference, which has sought to cross both denominational and municipal lines.

Rabbi Wohl has exemplified the ideals we seek in individuals of faith. From creating the Coalition for Mutual Respect in 1979 to traveling as far as Sacramento, California, to participate in inter-faith efforts, Rabbi Wohl has worked tirelessly to sustain the dialogue necessary to address conflicts among the different faiths in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Amiel Wohl on his accomplishments and in congratulating him on receiving this award.

#### BUSH POLICIES CONTRIBUTE TO HURRICANE CATASTROPHE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to outline how President Bush's policies contribute to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe that took place in the Gulf Coast area of our nation. Just as in Iraq, the President's policies and unbelievable mismanagement on the domestic front have brought pain and suffering to American people.

Thousands of people may have been killed by Hurricane Katrina and many more could die in its aftermath because of the President's refusal to heed the calls of the governors for help in repairing the infrastructure in their states. In Louisiana, everybody knew that the levees that hold back flood waters were in disrepair. But instead of listening to the governors, the President cut funding for this purpose. Again and again vital domestic priorities have been sacrificed in order to pay for the occupation and rebuilding of Iraq, and these choices are now being revealed as harmful to our nation and people.

In addition to depriving the affecting areas of the funding that would have enabled them to prepare for Hurricane Katrina. The President's commitment to Iraq has impaired the response to the crisis. It is this commitment that has contributed to the slow response of federal troops who should have been on alert before the hurricane struck. Now, as bedlam reigns in New Orleans, 35 percent of Louisiana's and 37 percent of Mississippi's National Guard troops are in Iraq. The hurricane is clear evidence of how the war directly affects the domestic security of our country.

The President is destroying the fabric of America with a combined policy of war, tax cuts for the wealthy, and reductions in spending for domestic needs. These policies are supported by the Republican-dominated Congress. Even so, it was shocking to read reports that DENNIS HASTERT, the Speaker of the House, said that rebuilding New Orleans made no sense to him.

The President's policies have not only made us less secure, they have widened the chasm between the well-to-do and the poor. The people who couldn't get out of New Orleans to escape the storm were predominantly Black and poor. They stayed behind not because they wanted to risk the danger of the hurricane, but because they don't have cars or any other means of escape. No one is even talking about the poor in more rural areas—Blacks and Whites—who have not even been reached by rescue teams.

President Bush has tried to turn this tragedy into a political victory by flying in on a helicopter to examine the damage. But he is in store for more genuine outrage resulting from his failed policy in Iraq and the anger of the U.S. governors whose constituents are paying the price for the domestic policies of the "war president".

Please find below my letter to President Bush about the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,  
The White House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I am writing to strongly urge you to use your power and leadership to provide the most aggressive possible response to the humanitarian crisis taking place in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The response so far has been unsatisfactory.

Food, water, medicine and emergency housing is in critical need. In addition, with the crisis seemingly affecting poor people most, arrangements should be made for emergency short term grants and loans to individuals, particularly those who head families and are taking care of children and the elderly.

Further, while we are all dismayed by television pictures of looters, we must not allow the focus of our humanitarian efforts to be diminished in any way by those actions. While criminal activity that threatens lives should not be tolerated, we must use maximum discretion in the use of force against individuals who may be motivated by poverty and hunger.

I have received many calls from constituents as well as Americans across the country, who believe that the victims of this catastrophe are receiving a lesser government response than would be provided for people of means. True or not, this perception will be aggravated if in coming days Americans do not see a more forceful and creative response to this crisis, whether it means using large military planes to bring in supplies, including temporary housing and the use of hotels or even cruise ships.

Mr. President, we must raise the level of response to this crisis, the greatest natural disaster in the nation's history, and it must be done immediately.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Member of Congress.

HONORING STEVE PALMER,  
OWNER OF PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT ON WINNING THE RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Palmer, owner of Palmer Place Restaurant and winner of the National Restaurant Association Restaurant Neighbor Award.

The Restaurant Neighbor Award is a component of the Association's Cornerstone initiative, a comprehensive effort to advance and promote the restaurant industry's role as the cornerstone of community involvement, the cornerstone of career and employment opportunities and the cornerstone of economy.

This year's small business winner is Palmer Place. Creating a foundation sounds like a daunting task only achieved by huge corporations with lots of money to give away. But Small Business Winner Palmer Place Restaurant and its H Foundation is living proof that smaller restaurants can achieve big things in community outreach.

After a close friend and colleague died of cancer, Palmer Place owner Steve Palmer wanted to organize a fundraiser to raise money for cancer research. Palmer teamed up with local business owners John Rot and David Rizner to create the H Foundation where 100 percent of the money raised would go toward finding a cure for cancer.

The H Foundation aims to support innovative, forward-thinking cancer research. In 2003, the foundation donated \$170,000 to the Lurie center, from which researchers generated \$1.5 million in grants. Additionally part of the \$200,000 the H Foundation donated was used to create a program called Families After Cancer.

It is my honor to recognize Steve Palmer of Palmer Place Restaurant for his many achievements both within and outside of the business community, fostering the growth of a community as well as helping to create change and promote progress in cancer research.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (H.R. 3645) and of the decision to call this special session to send resources to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama quickly.

The thoughts and prayers of all Americans go out to the citizens of the states and communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The

entire country has watched the images of the destruction caused by this natural disaster with shock and sadness. Those who have lost loved ones, their homes and their communities must receive immediate aid and the legislation we are passing today will start that process.

As we respond to the immediate needs of the families displaced by this tragic natural disaster, the citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama also have my commitment that I will work with you to rebuild New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast. The impacts of this disaster on families, communities, the economy, and the environment will be long lasting. It will take resolve and commitment to ensure that we complete this enormous task.

The American spirit and the generosity of our citizens will be there for the victims of this tragedy. The first responder in this effort, however, must be the federal government—both for immediate needs and for long term rebuilding. Today is a critical first step in that effort and I am pleased to support this bill.

### TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST TOCCARA RENEE GREEN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Specialist Toccara Renee Green.

Toccara Green served in the Army's 57th Transportation Company, 584th Corps Support Battalion, headquartered at Fort Drum, NY. A talented and dedicated soldier, Specialist Green began her commitment to the U.S. Armed Forces at an early age. While a student at Forest Park Senior High School, Specialist Green spent four years in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, where she was promoted to executive officer.

After her first year at Norfolk State University, Specialist Green decided to expedite her dream of serving in the Armed forces and enlisted in the Army. She served for nine months in Kuwait before beginning her first tour of Iraq as a motor and transport operator. Specialist Green was four months from completion of her second tour of Iraq when she was killed by a roadside bomb that detonated near her convoy in Al Asad on August 14, 2005.

Through her honor and service, Specialist Green dedicated her life to fighting for liberty so that others might taste the freedom that democracy brings. It is these ideals that America most cherishes, and that Specialist Green herself advanced.

Specialist Green's determination, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others will be remembered by all who were privileged to know her. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Specialist Green and the incredible sacrifice she made for her country.

### SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bills today to be taken up under sus-

pension of the rules. However, I strongly oppose taking up H.R. 3673, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, which includes \$51.8 billion for the relief effort, including \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under suspension. Doing so limits the opportunity for debate and amendments at a time when many legitimate questions are being raised about FEMA. We surely can spend some time debating these issues and offering amendments to make sure that FEMA spends this money properly.

Based on the performance so far, I have no confidence that either FEMA, or its director, Mr. Michael Brown, can manage the funds Congress is appropriating. Mr. Brown had no experience in disaster management prior to being appointed director of FEMA, and that lack of experience has shown all too clearly. Mr. Brown waited for hours after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States to issue a department-wide call for help from the Department of Homeland Security. According to Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, FEMA also prevented the Coast Guard from providing fuel to local emergency personnel and turned back trucks filled with drinking water for victims. Neither FEMA nor any other federal agency appeared to be in charge as lawlessness broke out in New Orleans. Three days later, on Thursday, September 1, Director Brown said that federal officials had just learned that people had taken refuge in the New Orleans Convention Center. This was despite numerous previous news reports showing Americans gathering there. These are just a few examples of the delayed and badly conceived response to this disaster.

Many of these problems stem from the incompetence of FEMA management or perhaps its position in the enormous Department of Homeland Security, which is the amalgamation of 22 federal agencies. FEMA is no longer a cabinet-level agency, reporting directly to the President, as it was under President Clinton. People have raised questions whether this change, and FEMA's move into the Department of Homeland Security with a focus on dealing with terrorist events, have made it less able to help Americans deal with and recover from natural disasters. With the situation ongoing and FEMA to be heavily involved for months to come as the Gulf region recovers, we need to get the answers to these questions now. We cannot do that when the majority shuts off debate and prevents amendments.

Furthermore, I am concerned about providing FEMA more money, \$50 billion, at a time when many Americans, including myself, have lost confidence in its ability to manage this crisis. How can we have faith that this money will not be wasted, based on FEMA's performance to date? Particularly now, with a budget deficit of over \$300 billion, we cannot afford to waste any of our resources. In this time of need, we must come together as Americans and spend whatever is necessary to help our citizens rebuild. But, quickly appropriating money without accountability will not solve the problems of the Gulf region, if that money is not going to be well-spent. Instead of ramming this money through without discussion, we should be talking about how we can ensure FEMA uses this money in the best way

possible to help the citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina without unnecessarily blowing an even bigger hole in the budget deficit.

INTRODUCING A BILL ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INDEPENDENT INQUIRY COMMISSION ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation establishing a National Independent Inquiry Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Response (NIICDPR) to examine and evaluate the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina and assess our ability to respond to future large-scale disasters.

While the long-term impact of Hurricane Katrina will be felt for years, our evaluation of the Federal Government's response to, and preparation for, this and other major disasters—natural and man-made—must begin immediately.

Mirrored after the 9–11 Commission, the NIICDPR will consist of 10 members with no more than 5 being from either the Republican or Democratic parties, thus ensuring an independent and diverse make-up of commission members. The NIICDPR will be afforded the same powers which the 9–11 Commission enjoyed and will be tasked at finding the answers to the critical questions that we all have. These include but are not limited to:

Were we adequately prepared to respond to a disaster of this magnitude? Are we any more prepared today than we were before Katrina?

What plans were in place before Katrina made landfall to meet power, utility, and telecommunications needs following the storm? What plans are in place for future disasters?

What was the availability of adequate resources to meet the needs of displaced individuals and families, including temporary housing, medical services and facilities, transportation, and food and water supplies?

Did our federal disaster response plans consider the needs of all communities? What plans existed to ensure that underserved communities reached safety before and after Katrina?

How effective was the Federal Government in its rescue and other life-saving techniques?

Was the federal response to Hurricane Katrina efficiently coordinated with State and local governments? Was it adequate and appropriate in size and scope?

What improvements do the Executive and Legislative Branches need to make to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our disaster response programs?

Mr. Speaker, my Congressional District received the brunt of three major hurricanes last year. As I said earlier today, certainly our first priority has to be to rescue those who are still alive and provide them with housing, medical attention, food, and water. However, as the Gulf Coast turns to the recovery and rebuilding processes, the billions that Congress will spend will not be enough to fix the problems that exist within FEMA.

Based on my own personal experience dealing with FEMA and its director over the last year, I warn the Members of this body that the problems you see today are just the tip of the iceberg—and it has nothing to do with the magnitude of the disaster.

Inconsistency in FEMA regulations, constant reinterpretations of the Stafford Act, federal officials treating local emergency operations centers like revolving doors, lack of coordination, and FEMA's fluid and unclear chain of command are just a few of the many significant and real problems that Floridians dealt with last year and are still dealing with today.

I have literally begged the committees of jurisdiction in this body to hold hearings on these shortcomings. I even introduced bipartisan legislation in March with our colleague, CLAY SHAW, to address a slew of institutional problems within FEMA that we experienced first-hand last year.

Yet every time we take our concerns to the committees, we're told, "It's not a big enough problem to consider on its own." Well, Mr. Speaker, is the problem big enough now? How many people must die in a disaster before something becomes a "big enough problem" in this Congress?

Accountability is the only way to restore integrity in a broken system. An independent commission is the first step in repairing our disaster response system, which we all now know is woefully inadequate.

I ask for my colleagues support for this legislation, and I urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly before the House for its consideration.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF NATION TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on perhaps the worst natural catastrophe to occur in America in my lifetime. Hurricane Katrina wreaked devastation beyond any we've seen and we will feel its wrath for years to come. As a Nation, we will continue to grapple with the destruction and the task of rebuilding.

In the days and weeks to come, we will keep the survivors and victims in our thoughts and prayers while we begin the arduous process of surveying the damage. As of yet, we still do not know how many lost their lives during the onslaught of the storm or in the aftermath. The early estimates place the lives lost in the thousands, and the coming days may push that tally higher.

We will also pray for the survivors many of whom have been evacuated to the surrounding states. I am proud that San Antonio, my hometown, is opening its doors for thousands of Americans who have nowhere else to go. In some ways, this is America's finest hour as strangers have opened their homes and communities to people who departed from New Orleans on buses or planes often with just the clothes on their backs.

Of course, we cannot praise enough the brave men and women of the Gulf region's police departments, rescue teams, the National

Guard, and the Armed Services. Time and again, they risked their lives to rescue the thousands of stranded people in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. When their Nation called, they answered. This week, we will fill the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recounting their bravery and selflessness in the face of horrors and danger rarely seen in this country. They did better than could be expected with the resources and supplies they had.

Inexcusably, the administration failed both these heroes and those in need of aid. In the days after the hurricane had passed, the slow and inadequate response created another crisis that compounded the initial damage. Who was not angered and frustrated as the images from New Orleans washed over us like the floodwaters that engulfed the city after the levees were breached? How is it possible that we could not transport food, water, and medicine to the thousands trapped in the city? How could the conditions in the Superdome and the Convention center grow so dire?

We could assemble one of the world's most formidable military forces to invade Iraq which is halfway across the globe, yet we could not transport the essentials to a major American city. This simply boggles the mind and moves the conscience to anger and shame. Because the various governmental agencies lacked direction, thousands may have died days after the storm subsided. Will the administration continue to blame the State and local governments for being unable to coordinate a relief effort too big for any one entity save the Federal government? This is unacceptable, and clearly Congress will need to investigate and remedy the shameful shortcomings of the current Federal emergency management system.

Some of my colleagues say that the race and the poverty of the victims dictated the speed of the relief effort. Some would also condemn the fiscal priorities of an administration that has pursued reckless tax cuts during a time of war and while our national infrastructure literally crumbles. Early reports indicate the administration cut funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the levee system in New Orleans. Yet, until all the facts are in, I urge my colleagues to reserve judgment, yet failing to fully investigate this calamity no matter how painful or embarrassing it may prove would breach our duty to the American people. We owe this to those the administration failed.

H.R. 3673, THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL FOR HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 3673, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Katrina Response. This measure provides an additional \$51.8 billion for hurricane relief, with \$50 billion of that for relief and cleanup activities by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, \$1.4 billion for hurricane-related activities by the military, and \$400 million for the Army Corps of Engineers for restoration work on navigation locks and for channel dredging.

We have all been moved by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and we must now all pull together to help those who are facing the greatest challenges in their attempts to recover and respond to Katrina's wake. In times of hardship, Americans come together to help each other. Time is of the essence, and each of us must do what we can to respond to this natural catastrophe.

Once the deadly threat posed by Hurricane Katrina became apparent, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI publicly called for a special session of Congress to get to work and send relief to the victims struggling in the Gulf Coast. I was pleased that Republican leadership finally answered Leader PELOSI's call and convened the U.S. Congress to pass a \$10.5 billion emergency supplemental spending bill for the people suffering in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Today we will pass an additional \$51.8 billion in the Second Emergency Supplemental for Hurricane Katrina. While these funds are much needed they are coming before us today on the suspension calendar which does not allow us adequate time for debate or an opportunity to add important amendments. Hurricane Katrina is clearly the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, and we are missing the opportunity to address some critical issues, such as creating a commission to investigate the federal response to this disaster and making FEMA an independent agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must provide leadership in helping those displaced by the hurricane to rebuild their lives and communities out of the wreckage left in Katrina's wake. In the weeks and months ahead, Congress will consider additional spending measures to aid victims of the hurricane. As Americans, we have pulled together through tragedies in the past, and I know that we will demonstrate that same unity in overcoming the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as you know, on the afternoon of September 7th, I was in New York at the United Nations formally thanking the international delegates on behalf of the House of Representatives for their support and assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Over 90 countries have offered to help us recover from this natural disaster, and I was privileged to have the opportunity to thank the international community on your behalf.

As a result of my presentation in New York, I was unfortunately unable to be present for two recorded votes that day. Had I been present, I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3169, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster. I likewise would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3650, to allow United States courts to conduct business during emergency conditions.

#### THE NEW ORLEANS CRIME VICTIMS DESERVE COMPENSATION

#### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of those who demand a more detailed legislative effort. Official criminal neglect is the crime of New Orleans. First response neglect is the immediate and short-term crime. Our government should've responded faster with more. Long-term crime caused by partisan politics, the greed of powerful selfish legislators who lack compassion, the looting of billions from the Federal treasury for the wrong reasons, the institutionalized prejudices against big cities; all of these evils have festered over the years to produce the highly visible, horrifying gangrene of the New Orleans disaster.

Congress and the President deserve high praise for the emergency appropriations. But this allotment is for the weeks and months ahead. On day one of this disaster the U.S. already had all of the resources necessary to achieve the safer, faster and more thorough rescue of the desperate population of New Orleans. Criminal incompetence and some contempt for the stranded population blocked the perceptions of how to speedily mobilize resources. In 1940 at Dunkirk, under heavy fire from German forces, more than 300,000 British troops were rescued and ferried back to England. Success was achieved because Winston Churchill immediately understood the gravity of the situation and called for the mobilization of every vehicle that could float. The crime and the pity is that all of the helicopter and naval craft marvels of our military were not immediately ordered to blanket the flooded neighborhoods of New Orleans.

Decades of debate and refusals to seriously address an obviously dangerous set of circumstances facing one of America's great cities is the long-term crime at the heart of this involuntary manslaughter. For decades Washington refused to finance state of the art technology to lessen the dangers of flooding in New Orleans. In recent years the Bush administration has compounded the problem by cutting already inadequate budgets.

Since we refused to shield this crime victim from the life-threatening assault that has now been perpetrated, the bleeding New Orleans deserves maximum compensation. The Hurricane Katrina emergency appropriation is a promising beginning. To accomplish its purpose the provisions of the legislation must be expanded to include the following:

The establishment of a Right of Resettlement for all who want to return.

The immediate establishment of an Emergency Free Communications Network with cell phones for all refugee families.

The establishment of a Job Corps for able bodied refugees which mandates their priority hiring for jobs related to the cleanup and rebuilding.

The establishment of Faith and Community Based Family Resettlement Projects to assist in the relocation of refugee families.

The establishment of Family Resettlement Accounts for families who wish to relocate to some other part of the country.

The establishment of an Emergency College Student Temporary Resettlement Program utilizing Colleges that volunteer to receive students, faculty and administrators.

The provision of Impact School Aid for school districts where large numbers of refugee families are located.

A mandatory review and revamping of the Corps of Army Engineers Master Plan for New Orleans.

A federally funded initiative to establish "Fail Safe" Committees in local communities.

In summary, Congress must act immediately to specify how the Hurricane Katrina appropriation will be spent. There is a clear and present danger that billions will be contracted out to Haliburton type corporations and refugees will receive only a very meager benefit. We members of Congress must remain vigilant to guarantee that no more official crimes will be perpetrated against New Orleans.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues from Virginia, Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey to introduce legislation recognizing the importance of a national memorial at the Pentagon to commemorate and mourn the terrorist attack against the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

This legislation is modeled after a resolution (H. Res. 175) my friend and colleague from New York introduced earlier this year in support of efforts to create a September 11, 2001 memorial at the site of World Trade Center.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 4th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, it is appropriate that we establish memorials at the sites of these attacks to honor the victims.

On that fateful day four years ago, the 59 victims of American Airlines Flight 77 and 125 military personnel and Defense Department employees at the Pentagon died and scores more were injured in a dastardly and unprovoked attack against the American people.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have joined the pantheon of national tragedies and become a defining moment in United States history.

These attacks of September 11, 2001 affected all Americans, not only for the tragic loss of life, but also for its emotional toll on our public conscience. Two-thirds of Americans report that the attacks had a great emotional impact on them, and virtually all Americans can recall precisely where they were and what they were doing when they learned of the attacks.

And while all of us were beset by the tragic loss of life and untold suffering, we found solace in the inspiring and heroic actions taken by the crew and passengers of Flight 93 and by the firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, military personnel and ordinary citizens who raced to the scene of these attacks and saved lives, keeping the attacks from taking an even greater toll.

It was a tragic day, but a defining moment in our nation's history.

I applaud the efforts of those who have worked to build the memorials to honor and



commemorate the fallen and to acknowledge the impact the horrific attacks have had on all of us.

I encourage my colleagues and those listening to support these memorials and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE YWCA  
PASADENA-FOOTHILL VALLEY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley upon its 100th anniversary.

In 1905, a group of prominent Pasadena women formed a branch of the National Consumers League in an effort to hold local employers accountable to statewide labor laws for young working women. As affordable housing for these young women became a concern, this same group formed the Young Women's League and provided rental housing for working women. This was the start of what was to become, in 1909, the Pasadena Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA. In 1910, they purchased a property in Pasadena and in the 1920s, hired Julia Morgan, California's first woman architect, to design the landmark building on that same land.

During the First World War, the YWCA offered Red Cross training and classes in the arts to young working women, while actively rallying for women's suffrage and better working conditions for California's migrant workers. In the 1920s, the YWCA made special outreach efforts to include African-American and Japanese-American girls.

During the Great Depression, the YWCA offered loans and free room and board to women in need, and opened new clubs for Mexican-American and African-American girls. Ahead of its time, the YWCA Board agreed that "the use of facilities be based on general fitness without reference to race, religion, or nationality."

In 1940 a Japanese Girls Reserve was formed. When the war ended, the YWCA assisted in facilitating the interned Japanese-Americans' return to the community. During these years, the Pasadena YWCA, with its active social conscience, led the community on issues such as juvenile delinquency, housing, childcare and discrimination.

In the 1940s and 50s, programs that targeted delinquent teens and a childcare nursery were developed. The 1960s saw the Back Yard Mothers Project, the Mexican Bi-Cultural Club, the Pasadena Free Clinic, and in 1966, the Federal Government selected the Pasadena YWCA as the site for its Job Corps girls program.

The 1970s and 80s brought a Rape Advocacy Program, a program to train women for non-traditional jobs that paved the way for the Women at Work program, and Hestia House, a shelter for women and their children in crisis. In 1996, the YWCA Board sold the historic Julia Morgan building, moved into administrative offices, but continued to meet the needs of girls and women, never forgetting its mission to work for the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism.

Today, programs like Just for Girls meet on school campuses and offer assistance to at-

risk youth and the sports program brings together girls from varied economic and ethnic backgrounds. The YWCA hosts the annual Week Without Violence and an annual Racial Justice Committee Breakfast.

I am proud to recognize the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley for its 100 years of offering a diverse place of acceptance to the women of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the YWCA for their remarkable achievements.

STATEMENT ON HURRICANE  
KATRINA

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the people in the Gulf Coast area who have been so profoundly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The loss of lives, property, and livelihoods is a shocking tragedy, the full extent of which is only starting to be known.

The number one priority now must be safeguarding and improving the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people who have been evacuated from their homes, or whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. We must ensure that all people affected by this disaster have food, water, shelter, clothing, and healthcare. To achieve this, the government must commit to fast tracking needed public services like unemployment insurance and compensation, food stamps and Medicaid. In addition, we must be prepared to provide ongoing support through housing loans, job information networks, and aid to school districts that will enroll evacuated students. These measures are critical in helping people as they start to put their lives back together.

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina was compounded by a sluggish response by the Federal Government that trapped people in harm's way, and failed to provide them with the basic necessities of food and water. I believe that the Department of Homeland Security and the President must ultimately account for the failure in preparing for this disaster in an efficient and comprehensive manner. As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am dedicated to finding solutions to the systemic problems in DHS, as evidenced by its weak initial relief efforts in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the substantial problems that plagued the relief effort, the rescuers on the ground performed 47,300 life-saving rescues, and managed to find shelter for 235,200 people whose homes were damaged or destroyed. As the first responders continue working in the Gulf Coast, our thoughts and good wishes, and those of the entire Nation are with them. In Orange County, CA, I am proud to say our communities are doing their part. There are numerous efforts to assist the people affected by this disaster. Mr. Frank Garcia of the La Casa Garcia of Anaheim and volunteers from Orange County, CA, are traveling right now to Texas to set up a kitchen to help feed the evacuees. I am confident that the generosity of the American people will continue and grow. We have all been touched by the pain and shock of this disaster. And I hope

that this outpouring of support and solidarity will help the people of the Gulf Coast to rebuild their lives and give them hope for a better future.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 3673, MAKING  
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2005

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this ill-considered \$51.8 billion disaster relief appropriation. Many have come to the floor today to discuss how we must help the victims of this terrible disaster and its aftermath. But why do they think that the best way to do so is simply to write a huge check to the very government agency that failed so spectacularly? This does not make sense. We have all seen the numerous articles detailing the seemingly inexcusable mistakes FEMA made—before and after the hurricane. Yet, in typical fashion, Congress seems to think that the best way to fix the mess is to throw money at the very government agency that failed.

Mr. Speaker, considering the demonstrated ineptitude of government on both the Federal and State level in this disaster, the people affected by the hurricane and subsequent flood would no doubt be better off if relief money was simply sent directly to them or to community organizations dedicated to clean-up and reconstruction. Indeed, we have seen numerous examples of private organizations and individuals attempting to help their fellow Americans in so many ways over the last 10 days, only to be turned back by FEMA or held up for days by government red tape. We have seen in previous disasters how individuals and non-governmental organizations were often among the first to pitch in and help their neighbors and fellow citizens. Now, FEMA is sending these good Samaritans a troubling message: stay away, let us handle it.

In several disasters that have befallen my Gulf Coast district, my constituents have over and over again told me that they prefer to rebuild and recover without the "help" of Federal agencies like FEMA, which so often impose their own bureaucratic solutions on the owners of private property.

Mr. Speaker, we see here once again the Federal Government attempting to impose a topdown solution to the disaster. No one is questioning from where this \$52 billion will come. The answer, of course, is that the Federal Government is going to simply print the money up. There are no reductions in Federal spending elsewhere to free up this disaster aid. Rather, the money will come from a printing press. The economic devastation created by such a reckless approach may well be even more wide-reaching than the disaster this bill is meant to repair.

I ask my colleagues to consider more constructive ways to help New Orleans and the other affected areas recover from this tragedy. There are numerous approaches, such as the creation of no-tax enterprise zones, that would attract private enterprise and capital to the area and would result in a much quicker and more responsive recovery. The citizens of the

affected area and the rest of the country deserve a more sustainable and financially rational approach than simply printing and spending money.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in full support of H.R. 3645 to provide financial relief to the millions of those affected by Hurricane Katrina. My prayers go out to the victims and their families. Despite a massive search and rescue effort to locate victims of Hurricane Katrina, many still remain in harm's way while scores of others attempt to piece together what is left of their lives. As such, we are faced with the difficult task of providing the attention and resources in order to rescue those still in danger; providing comfort to those without food, clean water, or shelter; and preventing further devastation from disease. This funding will provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency with just enough money to get started on immediate disaster assistance.

However, this is just the beginning of our financial commitment to the people of these ravaged areas. The \$10 billion will give our emergency responders the means to save and help rebuild lives in the short-term, but the long-term funding situation is uncertain and daunting. It is too early to estimate the final cost of rescue operations or the huge task of caring for the victims of this enormous tragedy. It is my understanding that total costs could exceed \$100 billion. I will continue to support whatever funding is needed for as long as it takes to rescue all in danger and to help our fellow Americans rebuild their lives.

As is always the case with a disaster of this magnitude, we must closely examine what could have been done differently and try to make right what once was wrong. In this instance, many factors combined to cause such widespread destruction and loss of life. The key questions are: what could have been done to properly plan for such a disaster and what should have been done to respond more quickly once the destination of Katrina was confirmed.

Proper planning on the part of the local and State governments was severely lacking. The decision to evacuate New Orleans without making provisions to transport people too poor to own or too sick to operate a vehicle was a moral abomination. We basically left people to see if they would die and many of them did. Every evacuation response plan in the Nation should, by federal law, be required to include transportation plans for such people. The excuse that this catastrophe was unpredictable is nonsense—scientists and engineers have been saying for years that a hurricane with Katrina's force could break the levees and flood the city of New Orleans. Despite these specific warnings, the local and State governments were woefully underprepared to deal with the magnitude of this disaster.

The slow response of the Federal government is equally abysmal and even more troubling. The Administration showed its indifference to the people in the Gulf by waiting until Saturday, September 3rd to deploy 7,200 active-duty ground troops. However as soon as the storm passed, it was clear that the local and State governments were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disaster. President Bush should have deployed these troops to the region as soon as the levee broke on Tuesday, if not sooner. All of the available resources of the federal government should have been mobilized immediately to evacuate people and organize food, shelter, and medical operations. In the days after Katrina's winds and rain subsided, it is indisputable that the Federal government failed the people of the Gulf Region.

Rather than acknowledge these shortcomings, the administration has brazenly lauded the Federal response. President Bush and others glossed over the fact that many people died as a result of the government's incompetence and indifference. The inadequate response to this disaster demonstrated to me that we have learned little from the lessons of September 11, 2001, and we are ill-prepared to deal with a major national disaster whether it be a natural or man-made.

I am determined to play whatever role I can in changing our Federal response system so that this type of gross negligence does not happen again. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my support for H.R. 3645 and I pledge my continued support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the thousands of emergency personnel who continue to work tirelessly to help the hundreds of thousands of people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The devastation caused by this hurricane is epic and we are only beginning to learn of the total destruction it caused. Yet, in the face of enormous adversity, thousands of Americans put their own lives on the line to help their fellow Americans in need.

These individuals worked themselves into exhaustion both mentally and physically. Without their sacrifice, thousands more Americans would have lost their lives from this devastating storm. Mirroring September 11, 2001, local first responders were once again on the front lines.

None of us shall soon forget the images of our brave men and women who serve in the United States Coast Guard. This disaster brought a new meaning to the term "search and rescue." Petty Officer Eric Sciubba arrived in New Orleans Monday and said crewmembers found themselves trying rescue techniques never before attempted. Replacing Scuba gear with axes, Americas' "Coasties" found themselves chopping through roof tops to reach trapped victims.

At one particular house, Petty Officer Sciubba found an invalid woman in even more peril than most in New Orleans. Her feeding tube had stopped working, and Sciubba found

her in bed on her home's first floor, with her head barley sticking above water. The helicopter couldn't reach the stranded couple through the back yard, and with the front door locked, Sciubba knew that time was their number one enemy. Finally, the man inside the house was able to get the door unlocked and both individuals were brought to safety. This couple was among the 109 people Petty Officer Sciubba's crew pulled from disaster to safety before returning to Ellington Field on Thursday.

And that is just one of the hundreds of incredible rescues made by the Coast Guard.

We certainly will not forget the sacrifice made by the tens of thousands of National Guard, many of whom recently returned or are soon being deployed to Iraq, who sacrificed their precious time with family and loved ones to help those in need and return order to a city in chaos.

America has faced many challenges in its history and Hurricane Katrina will be written as one of its greatest. Yet once again, this great country will meet and overcome this latest challenge and will triumph in the face of adversity. This great Nation of ours will once again show the world its courage, conviction and will to overcome.

EVERGREEN TROOP 361

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evergreen Troop 361 of the Mission Amigos District from the San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. On October 22nd, Troop 361 will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Troop 361 was founded with twelve boys in 1955 by members of the Evergreen Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Since 1955, Troop 361 has enjoyed the excellent sponsorship of the Evergreen Baptist Church. The Church, and Troop 361, subsequently moved to the City of Rosemead, and the Troop transferred to the Mission Amigos District of the San Gabriel Valley Council. With its beautiful mountains and proximity to the ocean, the San Gabriel Valley is the ideal place for boys to learn the scouting ways, as one of the mainstays of the Boy Scouts program is participation in a wide array of outdoor activities.

Over the years, Troop 361 has grown and thrived. Hundreds of scouts have passed through the ranks of Troop 361, and it is a further testament to the strong leadership and high caliber of young men that over 80 scouts in this troop have earned the most prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Today, Troop 361 is proud to have 55 outstanding scouts under the leadership of Ted Sakamoto, a Scoutmaster who has dedicated thousands of hours to ensuring that Troop 361 remains strong and successful.

Troop 361 is an integral part of the proud tradition of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America develop and nurture in our youth a strong sense of character, leadership, and respect. Boy Scouts are well-rounded, resourceful, and responsible, and Troop 361 exemplifies all of these qualities.

I am proud to congratulate Troop 361 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I ask all

Members of Congress to join me in honoring this Troop for its dedication to scouting and for helping boys become upstanding young men.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled engagement.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 464. On H. Res. 427, relating to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, "yes."

(2) Rollcall No. 463. On H. Res. 428, expressing the sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have offered material assistance and other forms of support to those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina, "yes."

(3) Rollcall No. 462. On H.R. 3668, the Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, "yes."

(4) Rollcall No. 461. On H.R. 3669, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program, "yes."

(5) Rollcall No. 460. On H.R. 3673, further Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, Hurricane Katrina, 2005, "yes."

(6) Rollcall No. 459. On H. RES. 426, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, "no."

(7) Rollcall No. 458. On H. RES. 426, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, "no."

RECOGNIZING REVEREND C. DALE EDWARDS OF THE O'FALLON ASSEMBLY OF GOD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASTORAL SERVICE

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend C. Dale Edwards, of the O'Fallon Assembly of God, in O'Fallon, Illinois, on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of pastoral service.

C. Dale Edwards was born in New City, Illinois, a community just southeast of the State Capitol of Springfield. During his early years on the farm and later, when the family moved to the nearby town of Edinburg, his mother always made sure the family faithfully attended the Gospel Tabernacle in Edinburg. During those early days at the Gospel Tabernacle, Reverend Edwards first realized his calling when, as a teenager, he was invited by Pastor Best to preach on occasion.

An accident in an elevator shaft left Reverend Edwards with a badly damaged foot that looked as if it was going to require amputa-

tion. Through the intervention of a family friend, Reverend Edwards attended a revival meeting where his foot was healed. This experience, coupled with his preaching at the Gospel Tabernacle, spurred Reverend Edwards to apply to North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

While at NCBC, Reverend Edwards became youth pastor in Hopkins, Minnesota in 1955, thus beginning the 50 years of pastoral ministry that we commemorate today.

After building congregations in Minnesota, South Dakota and Rock Island, Illinois, Reverend Edwards became the Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God in Granite City, Illinois where he served from 1974 through 1991. For the next six years, Reverend Edwards served as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Illinois District Assemblies of God, where he oversaw the credentialing of all Assembly of God ministers in Illinois. In this capacity, he also served as chairman of the Illinois District 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Reverend Edwards and his wife, Dottie, currently reside in O'Fallon, Illinois where they serve as Senior Pastors at O'Fallon Assembly of God. Reverend Edwards and Dottie have four children, all serving the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Reverend Edwards for his 50 years of dedicated ministry and to wish him the very best in the future.

#### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL PAIN PHYSICIANS (ASIPP)

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Act of 2005 was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Bush. I rise today to recognize the important contributions of Dr. Laxmaiah Manchikanti and the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) in accomplishing this important achievement.

Dr. Manchikanti is a physician of Indian origin who has practiced medicine in Paducah, Kentucky for the last 25 years. He is a well-known and well-respected physician with interests in many aspects of medicine, both in patient care, as well as academics.

Dr. Manchikanti is a recognized leader in the circles of interventional pain management. Apart from his interest in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and interventional pain management, he is also proficient in administrative medicine, patient advocacy, the economics of healthcare, medical ethics and various other aspects of the profession. He is an avid clinical researcher with numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals with original contributions.

Dr. Manchikanti currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians. With over 3,400 members, ASIPP is the largest organization in the country that represents physicians involved in trying to alleviate the intractable pain experienced by millions of Americans. Because of their professional involve-

ment with pain medicine many ASIPP members have a vested interest in solving the problem of prescription drug abuse and diversion.

Mr. Speaker, one of the fastest growing areas of drug abuse in our nation today is the diversion of prescription drugs. According to the National Institute of Health—National Institute on Drug Abuse, approximately 9 million Americans are misusers of prescription drugs. Furthermore, in 2001 the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, found statistically significant increases between 2000 and 2001 in the use of multiple drugs including non-medical use of pain relievers and tranquilizers.

Prescription drug abuse is an issue that transcends societal boundaries, and affects all areas of our nation and all income levels. In an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse the NASPER Act establishes a federal system for electronic prescription databanks, which a doctor could access to determine what, if any, medication their patient should be given.

From the very beginning, Dr. Manchikanti and his colleagues at ASIPP have played a crucial role in the development of the NASPER Act. Thanks to their active involvement and insightful guidance, we were able to craft a thoughtful policy that will give physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement agents the tools necessary to curb prescription drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, next week ASIPP will hold its 7th annual legislative session in Washington. I would like to welcome ASIPP to our nation's capital, and offer my gratitude for all of their efforts over the past several years. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Manchikanti and all of his colleagues the NASPER Act has finally become law and we can begin to address this very serious public health concern.

I must emphasize that this is only the beginning. There is still a lot of important work left to be done in terms of implementing and enforcing this new law. I am looking forward carrying my partnership with Dr. Manchikanti and ASIPP forward, as we continue to work together to help eliminate prescription drug abuse.

#### REGARDING H.R. 3673, MAKING FURTHER EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill because of the grave and immediate need that exists. As a representative of Houston, Texas, where over 150,000 Katrina evacuees were received, I can say from first hand knowledge that this is truly only a first step toward what is necessary and emergent. This measure is an initial investment—a down payment—for a long-term relief package—that unfortunately has not yet been codified.

Here we are, nine days after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. I want to thank Congressmen JEFFERSON and THOMPSON, who

have displayed great courage and resolve to help their constituents through the aftermath of this natural disaster. In my Congressional District in Houston tens of thousands of evacuees are being sheltered and fed. In fact, Americans throughout this country are stepping up to help those affected by this disaster. It demonstrates that once again in our darkest hour that we have united as a Nation to help our brothers and sisters who now seek to rebuild their lives.

Dollars spent through the Department of Defense must be re-channeled directly to the affected regions and people in order to provide relief in a timely manner.

Furthermore, we must find steps to move forward immediately to help those affected by this disaster and to try to prevent such an ineffective response from taking place again. I plan to introduce a number of legislative measures that will seek to alleviate the suffering of the survivors of the most devastating natural disaster in modern American history.

Hurricane Katrina has traumatized children on a frightening scale. According to the United Nations, as many as 400,000 children have been left homeless. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimated that the greatest impact of the tragedy would be upon the young and that children make up between a third and a quarter of those affected by the catastrophe.

Of an estimated 1.32 million people made homeless, there are around 300,000 to 400,000 children—most of whom will remain so for weeks or months! This is the impetus behind legislation I plan to introduce that would provide a one-time grant for relief programs that would serve these children.

I along with my Judiciary colleagues led by Ranking Member CONYERS will introduce legislation to protect the hundreds of thousands of families and small businesses financially devastated by Hurricane Katrina from being penalized by debtor provisions contained in the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, scheduled to take effect on October 17, 2005. This legislation is based in part on an amendment I offered at the markup of the Bankruptcy bill. We expect a Senate counterpart to be introduced this week as well.

We are concerned that just as survivors of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to rebuild their lives, the new bankruptcy law will result in a further and unintended financial whammy. Unfortunately, the new law is likely to have the consequence of preventing devastated families from being able to obtain relief from massive and unexpected new financial obligations they are incurring by forcing them to repay their debt with income they no longer have, but which is counted by the law.

Our bill makes several important adjustments. First, it would specify that individuals who are victims of natural disasters, and who incurred a substantial portion of their debt as a result of that disaster, are not subject to the "means test" and therefore cannot be forced into burdensome repayment plans. Although the current law includes an exception to the means test if the debtor can demonstrate "special circumstances," qualifying for such an exemption will be quite costly and burdensome, and require numerous detailed filings and legal certifications. This is the last thing a hurricane victim should need to worry about. Since the current bankruptcy law counts all in-

come earned in the six months prior to the bankruptcy as part of future income, this means that hurricane victims who have lost their jobs will be considered high income debtors who are presumed to be abusing the bankruptcy system. This is obviously absurd; so our bill gives the hurricane victims an automatic carve out, as we already do for certain categories of veterans.

The legislation we plan to introduce will prevent new bankruptcy provisions from having adverse and unintended consequences for the hundreds of thousands of individuals now facing financial ruin by providing needed flexibility for victims of natural disasters in bankruptcy proceedings.

I also plan to introduce a bill that will provide tax breaks for individuals who take in evacuees into their home. These people are stepping up to provide shelter and relief to their fellow Americans, and I believe it is certainly proper to encourage this behavior through the implementation of tax breaks.

In addition, I propose legislation that will grant a minimum of 20,000 two-year tenant-based housing assistance vouchers for Katrina's victims, together with transportation and relocation assistance to be used where necessary. These vouchers should be administered by local housing agencies presently administering HUD-funded Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance, which are located in or near the areas hardest hit by Katrina. These agencies are already positioned to provide housing assistance and can play an extremely helpful role meeting the immediate housing needs of Katrina's victims. This legislation would also allow the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue a wide range of statutory and regulatory waivers in order to most effectively and flexibly utilize HUD resources to meet the needs of victims.

Finally, I am calling for the establishment of a Commission to study the genesis of the devastation caused by the hurricane. We need a 9/11 style commission to know everything that took place. In addition, I am calling for the establishment of a position of an ombudsman for FEMA in order to provide proper oversight. Without a proper investigation, we cannot get all the answers and without the answers we can not provide the necessary legislation and oversight needed to try to prevent this kind of human suffering from happening again in the future.

Mr. Chairman, the harm that has been incurred by the people of the many regions affected by the disaster—most of which could have been mitigated, will require many phases of rehabilitation. I support this legislation as an initial step.

#### ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRESS TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the conflict on the Edmund Pettus bridge, the 40th anniversary of the signing of Voting Rights Act, and the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

this year, I think it is fitting and appropriate that we take a moment to acknowledge the vital role that the press played in the success of the Civil Rights Movement.

I have often said that without the media the Civil Rights Movement would have been a bird without wings. I am not certain where we would be today as a nation, if the American public had not been made to acknowledge the struggles we faced in the American South. The non-violent protests of the sixties used peaceful means to demonstrate the senseless injustice of *de facto* and *de jure* segregation, the inhumanity and indignity of the Jim Crow South, and the extraordinary persecution American citizens suffered trying to exercise their constitutional rights. Without the media's willingness to stand in harm's way and starkly portray events of the Movement as they saw them unfold, Americans may never have understood or even believed the horrors that African Americans faced in the Deep South.

That commitment to publish the truth took courage. It was incredibly dangerous to be seen with a pad, a pen, or a camera in Mississippi, Alabama or Georgia where the heart of the struggle took place. There was a violent desperation among local and State officials and the citizens to maintain the traditional order. People wanted to keep their injustice a secret. They wanted to hide from the critical eye of a disapproving world. They wanted to flee from the convictions of their own conscience. And they wanted to destroy the ugly reflection that nonviolent protestors and camera images so graphically displayed. So when the Freedom Riders climbed off the bus in Alabama in 1961, for example, there were reporters who were beaten and bloodied before any of us were.

And as they were attacked, I saw in them a resolve grow within them that was similar to what those of us in the Movement experienced. I have often said that the first time I was jailed, I felt so free. This Nation had dealt me its worst blow, and I had survived. I knew then that I was committed to the struggle for the long-haul. There were many reporters who felt that same curious strengthening when they too were attacked and beaten. Instead of scaring them away, those injustices created the opposite effect. It bonded them to the Movement, and it steeled their commitment to publish all that they saw.

There are so many moments poignantly depicted for posterity by television and newspaper camera men. It is easy to recall many of these now legendary images—Rosa Parks sitting on a bus in Montgomery in 1955; the bombing of the Greyhound bus outside Anniston, Alabama during the Freedom Rides in 1961; Gov. Ross Barnett of Mississippi and Gov. George Wallace in Alabama denying the entrance of black students to state universities in 1963 and 1964; the speeches on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in 1964; and the seminal speech President Lyndon Johnson made before a joint session of Congress encouraging the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

There are so many historic moments that were covered by the press, but there are two, which I count as turning points for me. The first is often heralded as the official beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement, that is the photograph of a mutilated 14-year-old boy named Emmett Till who was killed in Money, Mississippi during a summer vacation.

Till's mother Mamie Till Mobley decided not to have a closed casket funeral, but she wanted to leave the casket open and let people see the horrifying injustice that had been done. Jet magazine carried photographs of Till's body and Look magazine published an interview with Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam who admitted to the murder.

I will never forget the way that image affected me. Something changed inside of me and inside of many people across America when we saw the body of Emmett Till. I was only a teenager at the time, but I knew that somehow, somehow the injustice of segregation had to come to an end.

Within a year of the Till murder, when I was 15 years old and the son of a sharecropper in rural Alabama, I heard the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. broadcast on an old radio. He was talking about the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and I felt somehow that he was speaking directly to me. That radio broadcast changed my life because that day I knew it was possible to strike a blow at racial segregation and discrimination in America. Those moments captured by the media changed my destiny.

The Civil Rights Movement is deeply indebted to the courage, the strength, the integrity, and the talent of print and broadcast journalists who overcame their fear and decided to tell the American story. America is deeply indebted to these moment-by-moment, modern-day griots who hold up a mirror image of our society for us to see. Without a free press, this Nation would not be, could not be a beacon of justice and equality that has inspired men, women, and children worldwide to try to build a better world.

# A TRIBUTE TO THE MIJARES FAMILY

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mijares Family, of Pasadena, who are celebrating the 85th Anniversary of Mijares Mexican Restaurant, their family business.

Jesucita Mijares immigrated to California in the early 1900s with her second husband, Juan, and infant son, Joe. The family settled in Pasadena where Jesucita gave birth to two more children and cared for her growing family. The young Jesucita began her legendary tortilla-making business in 1920 to provide for her family after the devastating loss of her second husband.

Mijares Mexican Restaurant began as a family and community operated business that supplied hand-made tortillas to local grocery stores and restaurants. Mrs. Mijares took in boarders to supplement her income, and soon, tables were spread throughout her home to accommodate the growing number of residents and guests. Slowly, her tortilla business expanded and she provided meals for guests, with traditional Mexican dishes such as tamales and menudo served daily.

In 1940, as the business continued to flourish, Jesucita moved the production out of her home to a location on Palmetto Drive in Pasadena to be used as a delicatessen and small tortilla business. What happened, however, was that tables were added, rooms were built and patios were poured to accommodate hundreds of guests daily at the restaurant.

During the late 1970s the Mijares family suffered a devastating loss when the family res-

taurant was destroyed by fire. Determined to continue what her mother had started, her daughter, Alice Mijares Recendez worked hard to rebuild the restaurant, which was completed in 1984. During the time of rebuilding, to help her employees, many of whom were out of work, Alice opened a second restaurant on Washington Blvd. in Pasadena which exists to this day.

In 1988, Jesucita Mijares died and Alice became the family matriarch. Today, Alice and her daughter R-lene Mijares de Lang are the owners of Mijares. Alice oversees the gardens and patios at Mijares, cultivating the same love of plants and flowers as her mother Jesucita. R-lene taught in San Diego for 12 years before returning to run her family business. Also contributing to the family business are R-lene's brother, Tom Recendez, who manages the restaurant on Washington Blvd., and her sister, Tina Jimenez, who supports the administration of the catering and restaurant business. The Mijares family warmly welcomes its guests and works hard at providing friendly, quality service.

The Mijares family has made Mijares Mexican Restaurant both an enjoyable dining establishment and a business that gives back to the community. The family actively contributes to a number of charities which include Women at Work, Child Care Information Services, P.E.O. Chapters, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, Villa Esperanza, NOW, Pasadena Polytechnic School, El Centro de Accion Social, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, Hospice of Pasadena, and the Girl Scouts of America.

I am proud to recognize the Mijares Family on the 85th anniversary of Mijares Mexican Restaurant and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring this family for their 85 years of service to our community.